JULY 1955 50c

Guns
MAGAZINE

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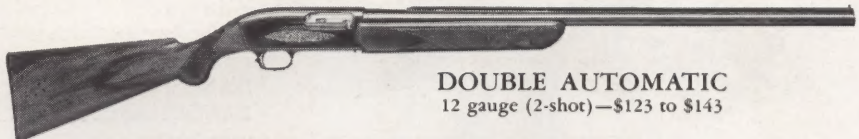

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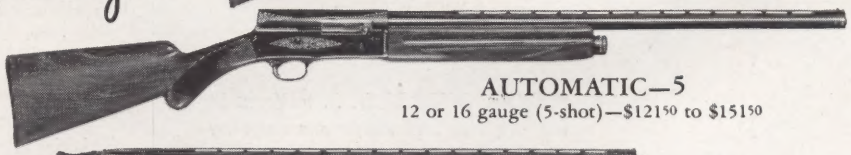

AUTOMATIC—5
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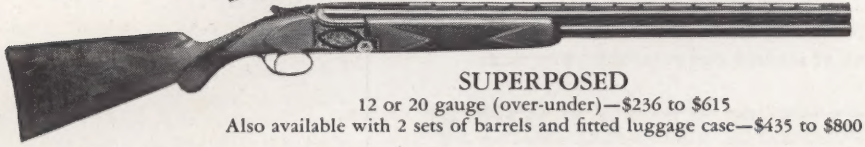

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CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Advanced" Articles

Congratulations on the excellence of your publication. I am sure GUNS will prove to be informative and interesting to a great many gun enthusiasts. I notice that you are already receiving letters asking for certain types of articles. I doubt if these writers are aware that if you catered to one class of shooters, your list of subscribers would be limited. I also have my preferences, but feel I can learn something from most articles on guns.

William Kemsley
Detroit, Michigan

I would like to add my voice to that of Mr. McElroy, who in the April issue, suggested some articles of more advanced type. I realize that GUNS magazine will probably have to have quite a few of the more elementary articles to be able to sell to a wider range of readers. I don't go much for the sensational type of headings, full of blood and thunder, but maybe this is considered necessary also.

On the other hand I would like to say that I think Stuart Miller's column on cartridges is excellent. Jac Weller's article in this month's issue was extremely well done, and one of the best I've seen on this subject ("Brown Bess"). This type of article is the answer to the type I refer to in the first paragraph.

Although hunting subjects do not interest me too much, they appear to be well done and should please the hunters among us. Might add that all of the illustrations in the mag are excellent.

T/Sgt M. Olmsted, USAF
Chicago, Ill.

Colt Single Action

Your magazine certainly ranks with the best. Of that there is no doubt.

I would like to make one little observation concerning George Pearsall's article and the letter to the editor from Ronald Echols of Willcox, Arizona.

Some years ago, Ed McGivern of Montana wrote a book entitled "Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting," which is perhaps the most scientific and authoritative book on revolvers that has ever been written. In it he states—and he should know, having shot probably millions of rounds of ammunition—that he was hardly able to keep his Single Action Frontiers in working condition, whereas he had no difficulty whatsoever with his modern Colts and Smith & Wessons. Now, this is not the statement of a romanticist; it is the statement of a scientist. These are the facts.

It would seem to me that this is indisputable evidence that the Single Action Frontier, while undoubtedly a fine weapon in its day, is badly outclassed by the modern Colts and Smith & Wessons. Mechanically, there is no comparison.

Dale McGee,
Hamilton, Ohio

Guns for Boys

Congratulations to Harvey Brandt on the excellent article "When to Buy Your Son a Gun." This is the kind of information that we need a great deal more of.

We have a rather fine gun club for boys here at the San Jose Y.M.C.A. But our group teaching of gun safety can never or will never equal that of the father-son teaching.

Thanks for a swell job, and a fine magazine.

Frank E. Thome
Asst. Youth Director
San Jose Y.M.C.A.
San Jose, California.

Beard Trouble

I am sending a clipping from your magazine, "Guns That Killed Presidents." People here, as well as myself, have noticed that the picture is not Garfield, but Benjamin Harrison.

I was born when Garfield was President and I also remember the day that Harrison was elected President.

No harm done, only someone made a mistake.

Ernest G. Hilton
Bozeman, Montana

GUNS picture editor, being somewhat more immature than reader Hilton, got tangled up in the beards of Garfield and Harrison and selected the wrong photo of the assassinated President.—ED.

Sports Magazine Favorite

I find your magazine of far more interest than all other sporting magazines to which I subscribe.

Horace W. Weatherbee
Lincoln, Maine

E & M Ownership

This is to reply to a statement in your March issue saying that Hy Hunter owns "E & M."

For your information, we are a nationwide mail order house and we also operate a retail store opposite the world-famous Farmer's Market in Hollywood. This store is operated by Bill Belknap. We handle both antique and modern firearms and their accessories. We are not connected with Hy Hunter in any way, nor have we ever been.

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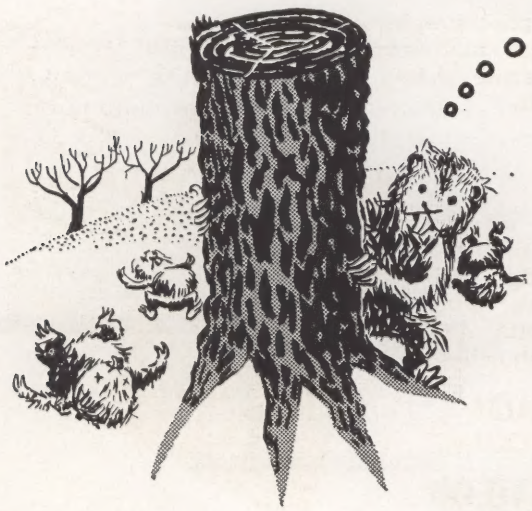

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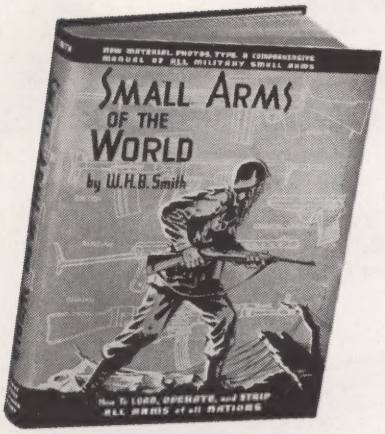

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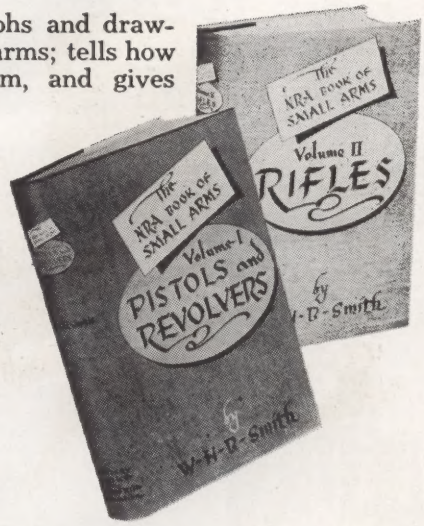

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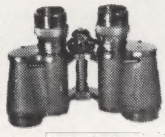

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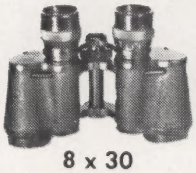

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GUNS in the NEWS

[Special]—

▫ Wesley Goodell, a Springfield, Vt., hunter, turned cowboy to bag his allotted one deer. Out of shots after wounding the animal, Goodell tied it to a tree and raced to a nearby phone to call a neighbor for help.

✪ ✪ ✪

▫ The play "Rain" was supposed to open in a Rocky Mountain theater. The day of the opening a number of bears and cougars—driven along by a raging forest fire—were sighted in the area. So the performance was canceled—probably the first time in history that rain was postponed on account of game.

✪ ✪ ✪

▫ In Uganda, a British colony in Africa, marksmanship tests were introduced for persons applying for licenses to shoot game but one-third of those applying failed to pass the tests. Many applicants could not hit the bullseye eight inches in diameter only 50 years from the firing line.

✪ ✪ ✪

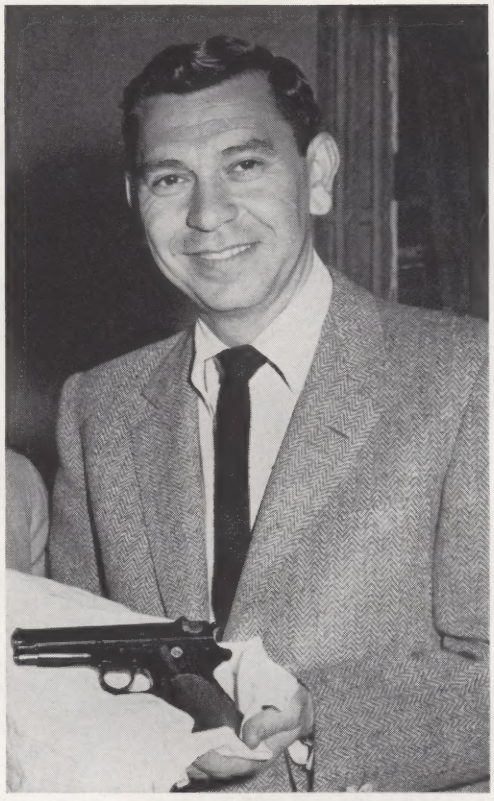
▫ Louis Hoyt was quite chagrined when he returned to his farm home near Lake Zurich, Ill. Five cars had been parked in his driveway during his absence and he could hear the hunters firing away at birds on his land, although his property was plainly posted. He called state police. When they didn't show up right away, he deflated the tires of the autos so the hunters couldn't get away.

When the officers did show up and Hoyt went with them to the scene of the shooting, he discovered that the men with the booming shotguns were all close friends whom he had invited to hunt at his place at one time or another. Hoyt apologized abjectly to them. The state police didn't wait around to see who pumped up the tires.

✪ ✪ ✪

▫ Al Morkin of Wanamingo, Minn., went hunting, fired one shot and killed two does. The bullet went through the neck of the first deer and into the heart of the second.

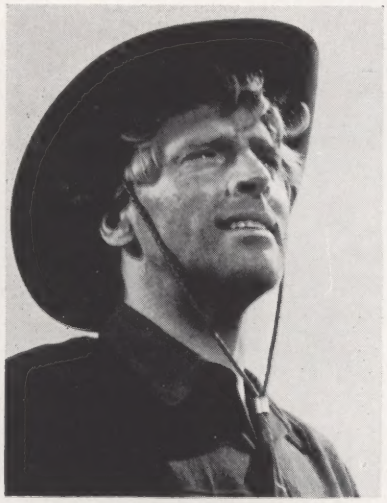
MY FAVORITE GUN



BY JACK WEBB, famous television star of the "Dragnet" program who recently was presented a new Smith & Wesson 9 mm. automatic with his badge number 714 inlaid in gold on frame:

My favorite gun is the new Smith and Wesson automatic pistol. It has many more safety features than previous automatics. Even though cocked and ready to fire, the gun won't fire if the clip has been dropped out. It has wonderful balance, reminding me in this respect of the German Luger. It is lightweight and easy to carry.

I received the gun only recently and have been too busy working on my Warner Bros. picture, "Pete Kelly's Blues," to try it on the target range but plan to do so at the first opportunity.



BY BURT LANCASTER, celebrated movie star last seen in the film, "Vera Cruz," who selects an old-style Winchester repeating rifle as his favorite.

In the service quite a few of the men preferred the classic Springfield '03 to the more modern rapid fire weapons. I have the same feeling about old guns and am extremely fond of the old-style Winchester that I used during the production of "Vera Cruz."

Next month: Hollywood star Gary Cooper makes his choice of a favorite gun.

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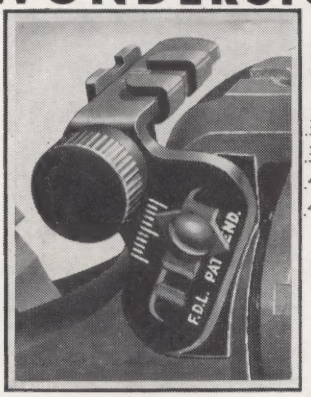

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COVER

Evelyn Primm of Los Angeles, rising young star of American trapshooting, calls favorite in her "battery" a Winchester Model 12 trap gun with ventilated rib, custom curly maple stock and beavertail foreend. Mrs. Primm shoots with a 26 yard handicap.

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TRIGGER TALK

ASK ANYONE who is America's No. 1 detective and the answer will no doubt be Dick Tracy, the fabulous cartoon characters whose adventures chasing after hoods with such imaginative names as Rughead, Pruneface, Flattop, Open Mind and The Brow has entertained millions. Aside from proving that crime does not pay, Dick Tracy also has occasionally paused in his pursuit of gangsters to offer some excellent tips on how the minions of the law get their man. Chester Gould's cartoon panels offer much information on firearms identification and crime lab techniques. Next month in GUNS, an article on "How Dick Tracy Gets His Man" explains the famed detective's knowledge of guns and how he uses them to mow down the lawless.

The Dick Tracy article is part of a special police issue that will cover a multitude of gun subjects of interest to the boys in blue and as well as gun enthusiasts in general. Police pistol training in different cities varies greatly and a GUNS article will discuss the merits and faults of these programs, covering cities from New York (which has a rather weak target practice setup) all the way out to the West Coast (where Los Angeles has one of the best training schedules for its police). "Why Cops Get Killed" is an eye-opening story which spells out graphically the facts about inadequate police training on pistol ranges and what it means in terms of policemen's lives.

Another phase of police work connected with guns is firearms identification, an exact science that is thoroughly probed by staff writer William C. L. Thompson. The history as well as the methods are discussed in this article.

Other features in this issue include a story on the guns of the most famous U.S. outlaw of all time—Jesse James. There are probably more versions of the guns that Jesse used as well as the gun with which he was killed than any other collector's item. The claims and counter-claims are dissected in a highly-provocative article you won't want to miss. To make certain this special issue of GUNS does not get by you and to assure getting your copy regularly, mail your subscription in today.

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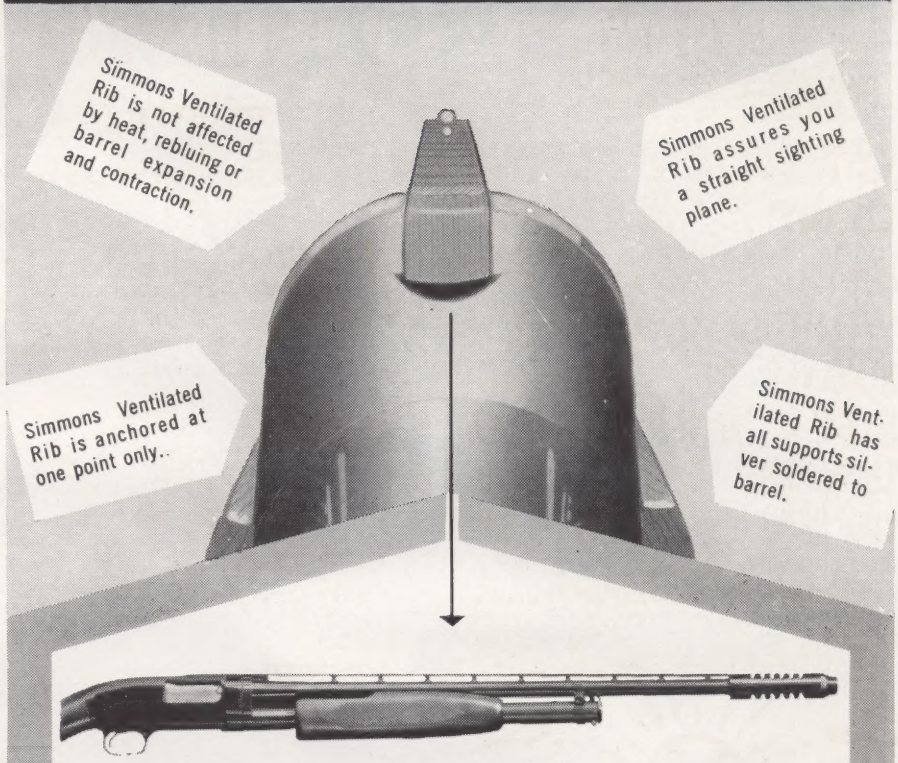
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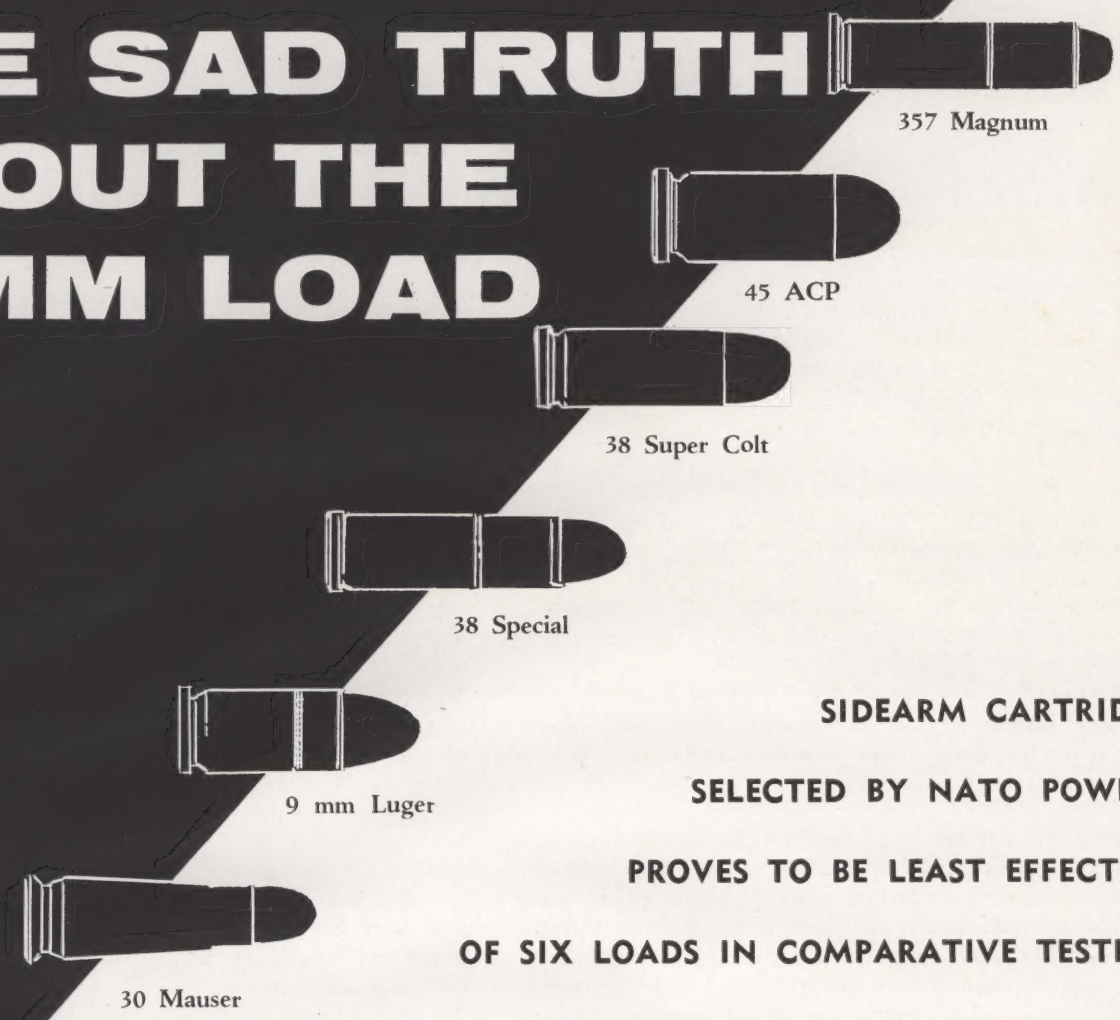
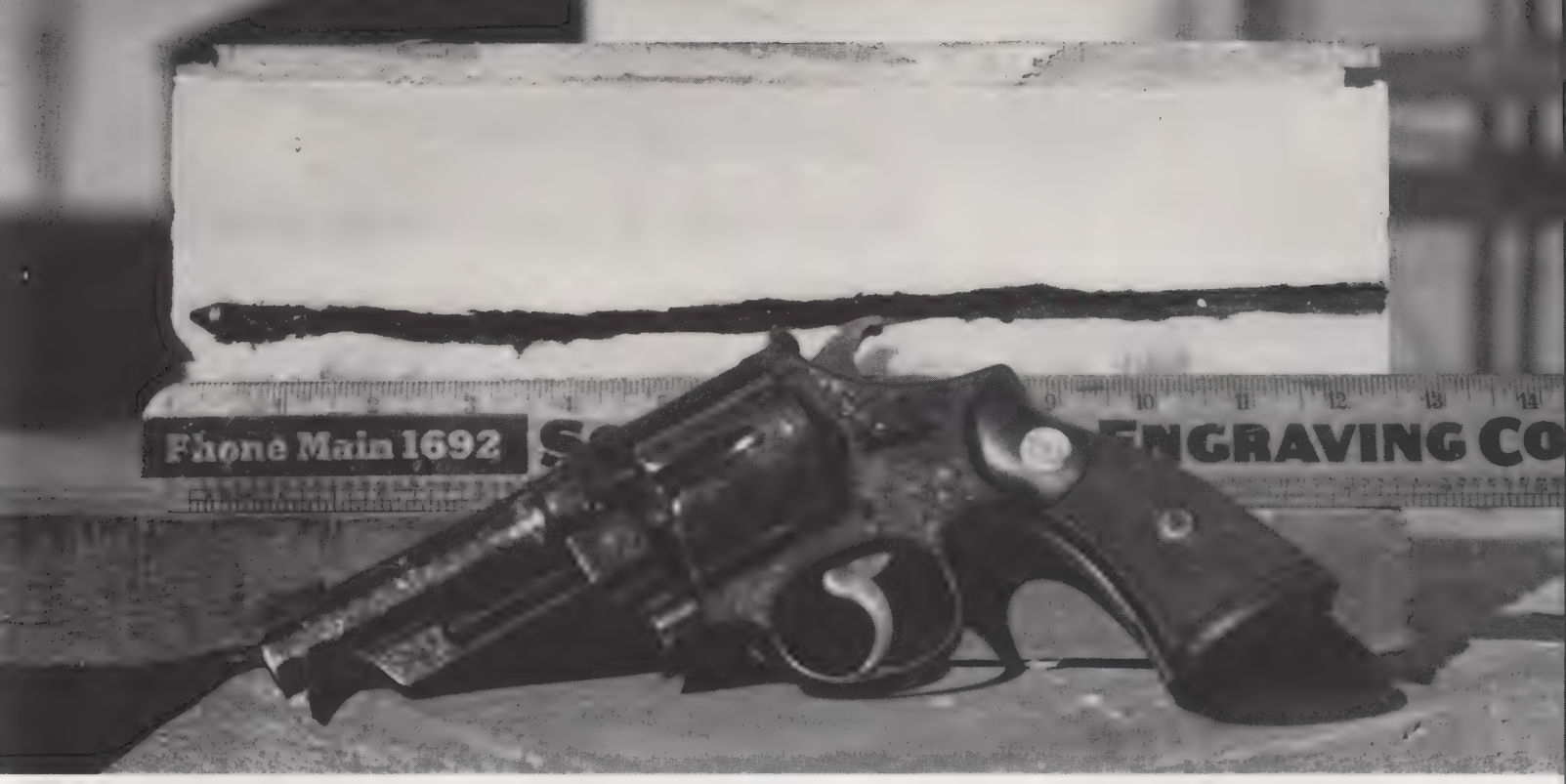


SIDEARM CARTRIDGE SELECTED BY NATO POWERS PROVES TO BE LEAST EFFECTIVE OF SIX LOADS IN COMPARATIVE TESTING

By COLONEL CHARLES ASKINS

Penetration tests on ¾ inch pine boards placed one inch apart are shown. Three guns are .45 Colt Automatic, short-barrelled .357 Magnum and 9 mm.



Magnum loaded to original prewar velocity penetrated 12¾ inches in solid block of paraffin. Gun does not have that powerful wallop today since manufacturer has reduced load about 10 per cent as indicated in recent tests.

THE NATO POWERS may have trouble in getting their heads together on some matters but a choice of fodder for the sidearm has not been one. By some coincidence, strange or otherwise, everyone—even the recalcitrant French—have agreed that the standard pistol will handle the 9 mm Parabellum (we call it 9 mm Luger) cartridge.

The krauts had a hand in the choice even though they haven't yet been taken into the fraternity. For the bully boys from the yon side of the Rhine made believers out of the powers in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The 9 mm saw a lot of use in the original Luger during that slight altercation now euphemistically referred to as World War I. Then there was another misunderstanding a few years later in which the Luger gave way to the Walther P-38 but the cartridge hung on . . . hung on and added to its lethal laurels by useage not only in the new pistol but in the even more venomous Schmeisser burp gun.

Yep, the Germans may not as yet have achieved the inner sanctum but their influence has been felt.

Like the Viscount of Alamein, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, that is, I have always been a pretty ardent admirer of the 9 mm cartridge. I applauded when the NATO powers settled on the load.

I had had little experience with the famous cartridge—it is not exactly the No. 1 choice of the discerning down in my country along the Tex-Mex border—but wasn't it used round the world? Wasn't it the most popular pistol, not to mention tommy gun fodder, of them all? Never as long as I can remember have I seen anything derogatory written about the 9 mm; I accepted almost without reservation the goodness of the shell.

But how did it stack up, I speculated, alongside the 357 Magnum, our own old bruiser the 45 Auto, not to mention the hot 38 Super Auto, and the 38 Special with walloping new police loads? Probably right next to the Magnum, I thought, but then why not run through a series of tests and establish, at least in part, the exact standing of the new NATO choice?

This I have done and while these shooting chores probably were not as carefully controlled as though done by White and Munhall engineering lab, they were all *comparative* to fullest degree and so far as I am concerned pretty thoroughly bracket the 9 mm.

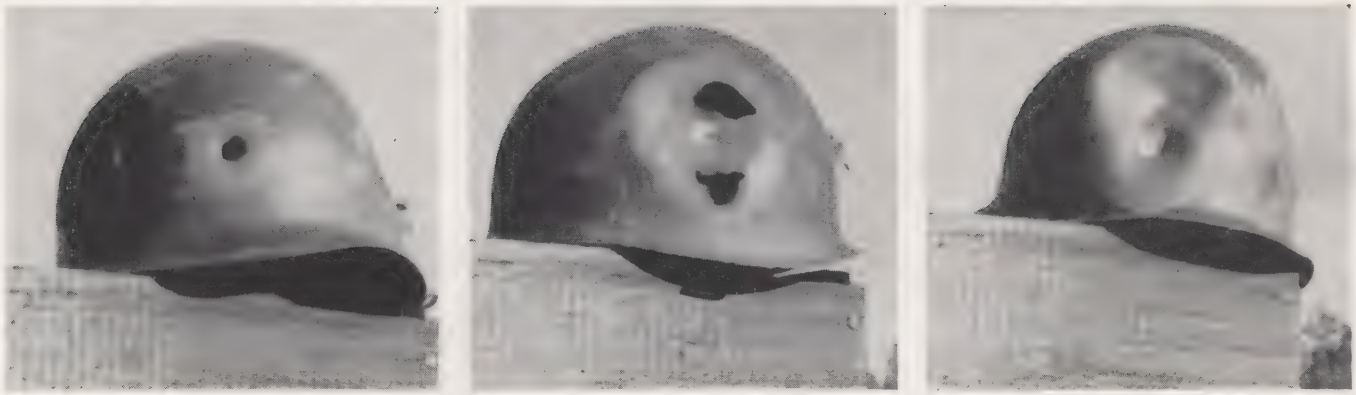
Now that all the shooting's over, I'd like to ask: who the hell sold the NATO boys—and incidentally the U. S.—on this 9 mm. clunk anyway?

The sad truth about the 9 mm. cartridge is that in comparative testing, it wound up in a dead heat for the tailend spot with the 30 Mauser.

The 9 mm Luger cartridge has been around for almost a half-century. It was first adopted by the German Army in 1908. It is commonly considered to be a .38-inch, actually only runs in the neighborhood of .347″ (8.83 mm), generally utilizes a bullet of 125 grains in a straight-sided case, and turns up a velocity in the 1025-1150 feet a second class. Muzzle energy, in standard U. S. loading, is 365 foot pounds. The Wermacht souped up the load to step at 1500 feet a second and when they did, the bullet was often sintered iron and the case was blackened to identify it. These loads were strictly for use in the MP-40 tommy gun!

I set up my tests with the 9 mm. by following standard operating procedure. I give you the results for what they may be worth.

Cast an eye over any standard ballistics table put out by the manufacturer and it will be apparent over near the right-hand margin that the handgun load has been subjected to tests on ¾-inch soft pine boards. This figure is always included. The test is conducted at 15 feet, the boards are arranged in a series, 1 inch separating each slab. Remembering that before World War II, I had ran a lot of tests with the big 357 Maggie, and that the load



Effect of different cartridges on helmets is seen in this series. Magnum (left) penetrated both sides of helmet. Old 45 ACP (center) broke through sizable holes while 9 mm. (right) dented but did not even penetrate one side of helmet.

went through 12 planks and buried itself in my winter hay supply, I tacked together 18 boards, each ¾-inch in thickness, and spaced an exact one inch apart, and determined this time I'd catch the Magnum bullet. I needn't have bothered.

Just so it would be a little more fun, I included in this shooting-through-the-pine stint, the 30 Mauser (7.63 mm), a shooting iron that has had a good reputation for z-zing over the years; the 9 mm, shooting it out of a Lahti auto pistol; the 38 Super Colt; 45 ACP in Hi-Way Master loading; the 38 Special also with Hi-Way Master cartridge; and finally the 357 Magnum, using the Super-X metal piercing bullet.

Any standard ballistics chart will show that the 357 will penetrate 12 boards; the 9 mm, 10 boards; 38 Super, 10 boards. But on the 45 ACP and the 38 Special with the Hi-Way Master loadings the penetration in pine boards, very strangely, is not given. These loadings are made specifically for police use: to shoot into fleeing autos, penetrate armored vests, plate glass windows, wooden doors. The bullet is a special zinc-alloyed slug, very resistant to deformation, and should have whistled through my 18 boards and a couple of dozen behind that.

After the dust and smoke had settle the score looked something like this:

357 Magnum	8 boards
9 mm	7 boards
38 Super Colt	7 boards
30 Mauser	7 boards
45 ACP Hi-way Master	6 boards
38 Spl Hi-way Master	5 boards

In analyzing the extraordinarily poor showing of every one of the six guns, I concluded that probably: (1) I hadn't pulled the trigger hard enough; (2) Tar Heel pine

Colonel Askins checks penetration on pine boards. Author made tests at Fort Bragg, N. C., where he is stationed as an officer with paratroops with whom he regularly jumps. Askins is currently doing research on new pistol cartridge.

One shot from 45 Colt Automatic completely shattered 50 pounds of ice in test. Standard American service pistol proved most effective among tested guns in shots at ice. Shooting was done at 15 feet and broke ice into small pieces.

down here in the state of North Carolina must be a heluva lot harder than the kind the manufacturer used; (3) maybe somebody had been kidding me about how many little ol' boards his cartridge would zip through.

The next thing I did was to pick up a bunch of busted-up, worn-out and discarded GI helmets. This test was a sort of a personal thing; I had a very warm, professional feeling about what the helmet would or would not stop. I wear one of the things as a regular chapeau, and come a shooting war it might stand between me and a busted pate.

Firing at 15 feet and careful the slugs did not hit on the curving surfaces, I whammed away. This is how the test shaped up:

1. *38 Special Hi-Way Master.* Penetrated both sides of first helmet and one side of second helmet arranged immediately behind first. Went on to make large dent in far side of second iron hat. While exit hole was not as large as either that of 357 or 45 ACP, penetration was superior.

2. *45 ACP Hi-Way Master.* Penetrated both sides of helmet and placed huge dent in second helmet arranged immediately behind first. More damage than 357! Subsequent trials produced complete penetration of first helmet and one side of second.

3. *357 Magnum, Super-X, Metal Piercing.* Penetrated both sides of helmet and put a very large dent in a second helmet arranged immediately behind first.

4. *30 Mauser, Metal Point.* Penetrated one side of helmet. Subsequent trials the same.

5. *9 mm Luger.* Would not penetrate the helmet. Subsequent trials the same.

6. *38 Super Colt.* Not tested in this trial.

While, for some unexplainable reason the penetration of the special Police loads on the soft pine was certainly putrid, both had showed up handsomely on metal. The 9 mm, that sterling choice of the NATO strategists, looked like playing into the hands of the Muscovites judging by its abysmal failure on a prime target like a tin headpiece.

The next test was arranged with 50-pound chunks of ice. Care was exercised in the selection of the ice to secure chunks that actually all weighed the same and were free of flaws, fissures, and the like. Shooting was at 15 feet.

During this shooting the most destructive of the several cartridges was the 45 ACP which completely shattered the 50 pounds of hardened water; on the bench after the shot were three small pieces, one weighing 2 pounds, a second 3.3 pounds and the third 4 pounds. Pieces were driven 25-30 feet. The next best showing was with the 38 Super Auto; approximately 3/5 of the ice square was destroyed, particles no larger than 5-ounce pieces were recovered 15 feet away. Of the six guns tested, the 9 mm finished a poor fourth, beating the 38 Special and the 30 Mauser. Order of merit shapes up like this:

1.	45 ACP
2.	38 Super Colt
3.	357 Magnum
4.	9 mm Luger
5.	38 Spl
6.	30 Mauser

I then cut a series of cold rolled steel plate, each 12″x12″, ¼-inch in thickness, and secured these targets on two sides. I did not stand them against any surface but did anchor the plating so that it would not afford a mark likely to be springy. Tests of all the weapons on these soft steel squares was appalling. Not only was there no penetration but the indentation was pipsqueak small!

Another series of plates were made from the same cold rolled stock, this time the thickness was only ⅛-inch. If you are a little in doubt as to just how beefy the plate may have been, simply glance at the front sight on your Colt OM sixgun. It is one-eighth, and you'll immediately be struck by the size.

Again, not a plate was punctured.

However, indentation was deep enough so that comparison could be made. I measured (*Continued on page 47*)

Skeet champion Mrs. Leon Mandel of Chicago has imposing shelf of trophies.

CAN WOMEN OUTSHOOT MEN?

WITH SHOOTING NO LONGER JUST A "MAN'S GAME," WIVES NOW ACCOMPANY HUSBANDS TO RANGES AND OFTEN PROVE THAT THEY ARE MUCH BETTER SHOTS

By K. D. CURTIS

SHOULD a husband teach his wife to shoot?

Not unless he is willing to swallow his masculine pride and admit his wife is a better shot than he is. For the facts of life in this modern day and age—and even back in Wild West era—are that the female of the species is often more deadly than the male with a gun. Shooting long ago ceased to be a "man's game" and today women often are able to prove their ability to outshoot men.

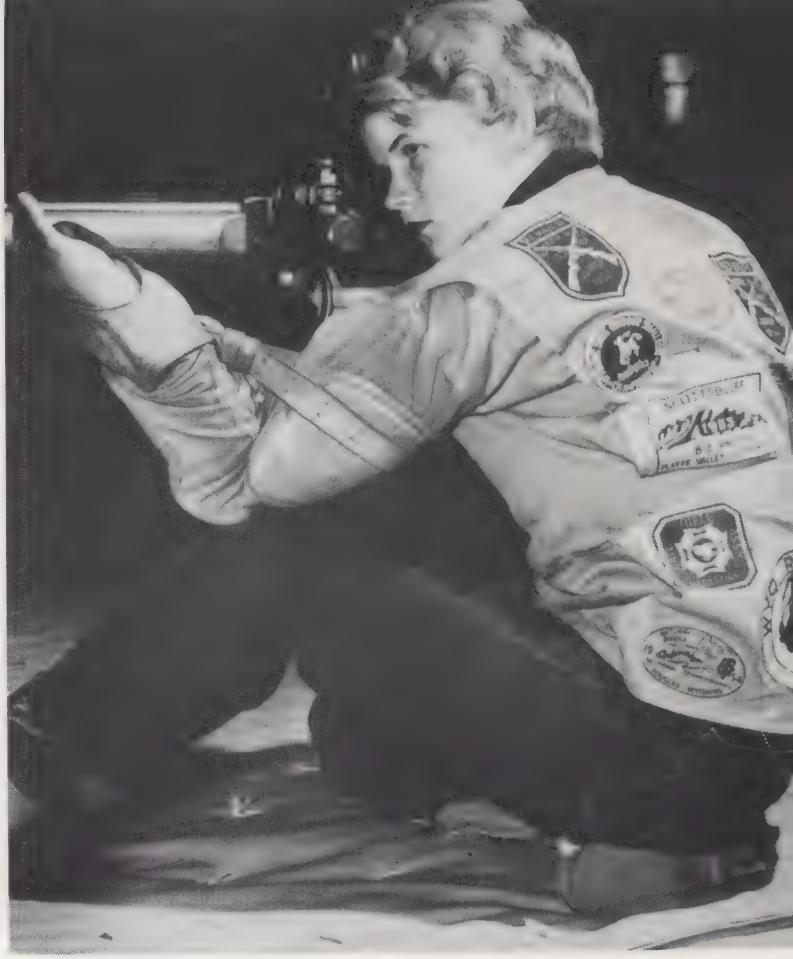
Oddly enough, beauty and marksmanship seem to go together. Some of the finest shots seen on the trapshooting and rifle range today are some of the finest looking girls seen anywhere. Modern-day shooting champs are often true beauties. Consider one of the best-known of women shooters, Mrs. Carola Mandel, national women's skeet shooting champion for several years. She could win a beauty contest as easily as marksmanship honors. And yet last September at Waterford, Mich., Mrs. Mandel beat an entire field of men to become the first woman ever to

win the 20 gauge open championship in the national skeet competition.

This Chicago beauty first started shooting at the urging of her husband, Colonel Leon Mandel, a Chicago department store merchant. Colonel Mandel is quite proficient with a shotgun and insisted on his wife taking up the sport, too. She did so with a vengeance and last year broke four world's records. In March she was named captain of the All-American skeet team . . . all because her husband insisted she learn how to shoot!

Women seem to take to shooting quickly, once they get interested. Maybe it's a woman's eye for detail that makes them so proficient with guns. Once they catch the shooting bug, they become genuine enthusiasts, not only to avoid being left out of their husband's hobby but also because of the sheer enjoyment of shooting. There is also a thrill in beating men at a man's game.

Typical of women who have outshot males is Corp. Pauline Gauthier of the Canadian WAC's, who recently defeated all men in the Montreal regiment's rifle meet, scoring 275 of 300 points. Two men tied for second with 268. A blonde sharpshooter, Margie Morton, is a member



Blonde sharpshooter Margie Morton is one of best marksman on University of Arizona team, outscores most men.

Former model Mrs. Evelyn Primm of Los Angeles enjoys 26-yard trapshooting handicap, highest for any women.

of the University of Arizona varsity rifle team and has scored higher than any of the men on opposing teams in several matches. A similar situation prevails on the Tucson, Arizona, High School rifle team where two girls, Lucretia Burleson and Gail Winston, are the two best shooters on the varsity rifle team.

Women start shooting for a variety of motives. Of course, there are some who resent being left out when hubby's friends come over for an evening and retire to the gun den while Ma watches television. Others start shooting because it's in the family. Pretty Kathy Walsh, who finished third in the women's national pistol championships when she was only 14, proved to be her father's daughter—her father being Colonel Walter Walsh of the Marine Corps, national service rifle champion in 1952. Kathy shoots like her pop, left-handed.

Another crack shot, Ruth Smith, California state handi cap champion, took up competition in skeet, trap and pistol just to follow in the footsteps of her brother, who was a sharpshooter. Ruth is proof that females can handle large calibre weapons and not complain about the kick of guns. The Los Angeles shot has an all-around battery including a Remington double 12 O/U, a fully engraved Parker trap gun, a Winchester Model 12 with fancy wood and full engraving topped off with a ventilated rib, and a scope-sighted custom Springfield 30-06. And there isn't a muzzle brake or recoil pad among them! The Remington has a thin cell-type pad, and the Parker and Winchester both have thin rubber non-slip pads, but they are all for shooting efficiency—when that gun comes up to her shoulder, she brings it in neatly and rocks with the bounce.

Her pistol work is pretty good, too. Once Harold

Total of 20 guns is owned by Ruth Smith of Los Angeles, women's state champ. Average is 95 out of 100.

Sharp-shooting coed Lucretia Burleson paces varsity rifle team at Tucson High School. She is former polio victim.

Shooting instruction is given to wife by Milt Hicks, prominent shotgunner now with Rhode Island Arms.

Smith, owner of the nationally-known Harold's Club in Reno, boasted that no one had ever beaten him at pistol shooting. A friend of Ruth promptly wagered the gambling club owner that she could outshoot Harold. To his surprise this slim lass proved her ability. In esteem of her skill, Harold presented her with his personal snub-nosed .38 Smith & Wesson, which she had used to score higher than him. She also has a K-38 for serious target work.

The wallop of a big gun is sometimes a problem for women in competition shooting but they learn to take the punishment. Skeet champ Mrs. Mandel, who is 5 foot 5, admits that she is physically exhausted after a meet: "Sometimes when I'm through, I can hardly get to the hotel before I collapse. Yet I never think of being tired when I'm shooting. You learn to roll with the kick of the gun. That's why you lean forward a little."

Mrs. Mandel credits her husband with getting her interested in shooting. "I started shooting mostly to please my husband," says the Havana-born beauty. "He used to take me out once in a while to shoot birds. I honestly thought he was over-enthusiastic about it, but I began working very hard on my own, and now I just love it. Then, late in 1949, my husband thought I should enter competition, and that's the thing that did it."

The Mandels have fun shooting together, but Mrs. M says: "We never think about competing against each

"World's Greatest Shooting Team" was billing for Mrs. Adolph "Plinky" Topperwein and her husband who were sponsored on tours by Winchester. Ad was famous for shooting 72,491 wooden blocks out of 72,500 in week of shooting.

other. That, I think, is frightfully important between a husband and wife. We never even bet a nickel for fun, although, very often, when he beats me, he is annoyed. He thinks I should do better."

To keep top honors, Mrs. Mandel uses an all-around battery. Recently she got a Browning Grade II over-under 12, a striking hunk of machinery costing $450. She also has an L.C. Smith 12, and others including a .410 Savage over/under and two foreign doubles in 28 gauge and 36 gauge.

Another wife who is typical of the lovelies decorating shooting ranges these days is former model Mrs. Evelyn Primm of Los Angeles, who enjoys a 26-yard handicap in competition, highest for any woman trapshooter in the nation. She began shooting three years ago, because "it looked like fun." Using a Remington O/U 12, and recently a Model 12 Winchester Skeet gun with curly-maple foreend and buttstock, Mrs. Primm has proved to a skeptical male world that she can shoot as well as the experts.

The husband-wife relationship has figured in most cases of outstanding women shooters. In the case of the most famous woman shooter of them all, Annie Oakley, outshooting Frank Butler was a prelude to his marrying the girl. The sly bet of a hotel owner with Butler started Annie on her way to world fame and Butler on his way

Mrs. Johnny Baker toured with her champion rifle-shooting husband, won many medals for marksmanship on her own.

Most famous woman shooter of all time was Annie Oakley, immortalized by Broadway in popular Irving Berlin musical.

Belle Starr, notorious outlaw, was famed for ability to shoot clay pigeons while galloping at full speed on horse.

to the altar. The hotelman, John Frost of Woodland, Ohio, wagered $100 with sharpshooter Butler that he could produce a country kid who could outshoot the pro. The year was 1875 and the pro almost tripped over his triggers when 15-year-old Annie showed up in her country-girl best: pleated skirt, fringed blouse, wide-brimmed hat over curls falling to her shoulders—and chaperoned by her brother. The contestants had rendezvoued two miles out in the country.

"Pull!" shouted Butler, braced at the first trap. He pulverized his target.

"Pull!" mimicked Annie's girlish voice. She, too, blasted hers. Butler pulled down his 25th, but the target had flown two feet beyond the boundary. No misses in between. Now Annie had to hit the next to pay off. The target whirred. And young Miss Oakley promptly blasted it to smithereens with the family muzzle-loader.

Frank Butler couldn't believe it. A "kid" female besting him! This young genius in marksmanship and game-hunting intrigued and fascinated him so much that he married Annie when she was only 16.

Born Phoebe Anne Mozee in 1860 in rural North Star, Ohio, Annie became perhaps the best-known shooter in all our history. No man taught this country girl to handle a gun; the hunger in her family prompted her to sneak out a weapon to hunt rabbits. Later she earned money bringing game birds to a Cincinnati hotel kitchen with their heads cleanly shot off.

Teaming maritally as well as professionally with Frank Butler, Annie turned in a half century of some remarkable shooting all over the world. On exhibitions, the teenager split corks on upside-down wine glasses held by her husband. Their first sensational tour lasted 42 weeks.

Then they hit the big combination that put Annie Oakley in history books. In Louisville, Ky., on March 1885, they joined "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West Show for 17 years of touring. People swarmed to see a young girl do fantastic things with gunfire. Co-trouper Sitting Bull dubbed her "Little Sure Shot." Millions all over America saw "Buffalo Bill," amidst Indian whoops and blank gunfire, bellow: "Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, tonight . . . Little Annie Oakley, 'Little Sure Shot.' Positively, the world's champion shot, the only one of her kind . . ."

She'd dash in on horseback. In a whirlwind, she'd shoot ashes from cigars, drill eyes in nickels, plunk tumbling coins, shoot in the touchiest situations while dangling from her horse, all under flickering kerosene lights.

Being with the show world, and having ability to bore holes with bullets, Annie gave the much-punched "complimentary ticket" its synonym: an "Annie Oakley." Ban Johnson of baseball fame started it by exclaiming: "Your pass looks like an Annie Oakley target"

Back before the turn of the century, this little girl hung up records for both men and women to aim at: 4772 glass balls out of 5000 . . . 945 straight tossed balls out of 1000 . . . 50 straight clay birds; 49 live birds out of 50 . . . 943 out of 1000 composition balls (with a .22 rifle) . . . six balls in four seconds; five in five—while swapping guns . . . used three guns on one lofted target . . . split edges of playing cards . . . in 25 seconds, with 25 bullets, at 25 yards, punch out a design.

Then there was Dave, the pet dog. Annie shattered thousands of apples off his nonchalant head. People dived for dimes she plugged between (*Continued on page 53*)

HUNTING ROYAL GAME IN DIXIE

BOARS IMPORTED FROM RUSSIA HALF-CENTURY AGO ARE NOW HUNTED DOWN IN TENNESSEE SMOKIES

By WILLIAM C. L. THOMPSON

DOWN in the Great Smoky mountains of Tennessee, hunters seek for a royal game—the European wild boar. Restricted for centuries to being hunted by nobility, these ferocious pigs are about as similar to a barnyard piglet as a rogue tiger is to a tabby cat.

They may not have the edge on weight, for "civilized" pigs sometimes weigh a half a ton. But though the European wild boar is much lighter, only about four hundred pounds of fast freight, he sure has the edge on teeth. Razor sharp, the four-inch

Ferocious boar is cornered by dogs and hunter gets in some rapid shots.

Dogs stir boar from its resting place and dart into the attack. But boar, with its sharp tusks, is fast and whirls so swiftly that few dogs, coming too close, escape being slashed. Dogs chase boars down towards stream where hunter waits.

Enthusiastic boar hunter is Gen. Jonathan Wainright, Bataan hero (right).

tusks of boars have been known to slash boot leather and leg muscle to the bone. "Game" like these cloven-footed fiends is one of the strongest arguments for carrying a large caliber handgun in the forest. The hunter unlucky enough to find himself wrestling with a boar has no time to reach for his rifle. Only a big knife or a powerful sidearm can help him then. Pistol-totin' hunters are alive today who might otherwise have lost their guts in a tangle with a boar.

About 50 years ago some wealthy sportsman imported a few of these pigs from their native forests in the Russian Urals. He thought he was merely stocking his game preserve with another game animal. Perhaps he was inspired by accounts of Austrian and Black Forest hunters who went after the cousins of his Russian pigs, and would actually fight these boars with a short knife as a test of manly courage and skill. But he soon learned they were anything but storybook pets. Away from their natural enemies and the systematic killing of the European game keepers whose job it was to keep the animals to a suitable number, the Russian boars thrived. Today they are one of the fastest, most dangerous game animals on the continent, and the way they are hunted does nothing to soothe their tempers.

Yearly there is a wild boar hunt in the rugged fastnesses of the Cherokee National Forest, near Tellico Plains, Tennessee, on the southern borders of the Great Smokies. Hunters participate each Fall in so-called "managed" hunts, arranged by the state game and fish commission. From all over the country they meet at Gatlinburg, a resort town and gateway to the famous forest. From here they go to their camps or hunting lodges, where local guides, cooperating with the forest rangers, have planned the hunt.

Wild boar are one of the few types of game allowed by law to be driven by dogs. The hunter who runs deer with dogs doesn't last long, and other than small animals like coon or possum,

and varmints like catamounts, the boars of Tennessee are the only animals regularly hunted with dogs. After being chased for two hours by hounds, a boar is in a pretty bad temper . . . and it is then that he first appears in your sights!

Rifles used in hunting these boar can be any of the popular medium .25 and .30 calibers usually found for example on the 99 Savage or 94 Winchester actions. Increasingly popular are GI Mauser 8mm's brought back from overseas, and the usual variety of custom sporters appear each season. The hill-folk prefer 20 gauge shotguns, loaded with pun'kin balls—the solid lead slugs possess the knock-down punch necessary to set a mad boar back on his heels. At the same time the shotgun slug may change a graze miss into a hit by being two or three times as big as an ordinary rifle bullet. The dogs bring the boars right up to the hunter. He has no excuse for a miss, but an autoloading shotgun or a lever repeater is a great comfort in close work.

Typically, the hunt starts at daybreak. As the sun rises above the far-off ridge of the Great Smokies, a party of hunters and the guide start off into the hills. Running close beside them may be two or three Plott hounds, the lean, short-haired hunting hounds of the south. *(Continued on page 65)*

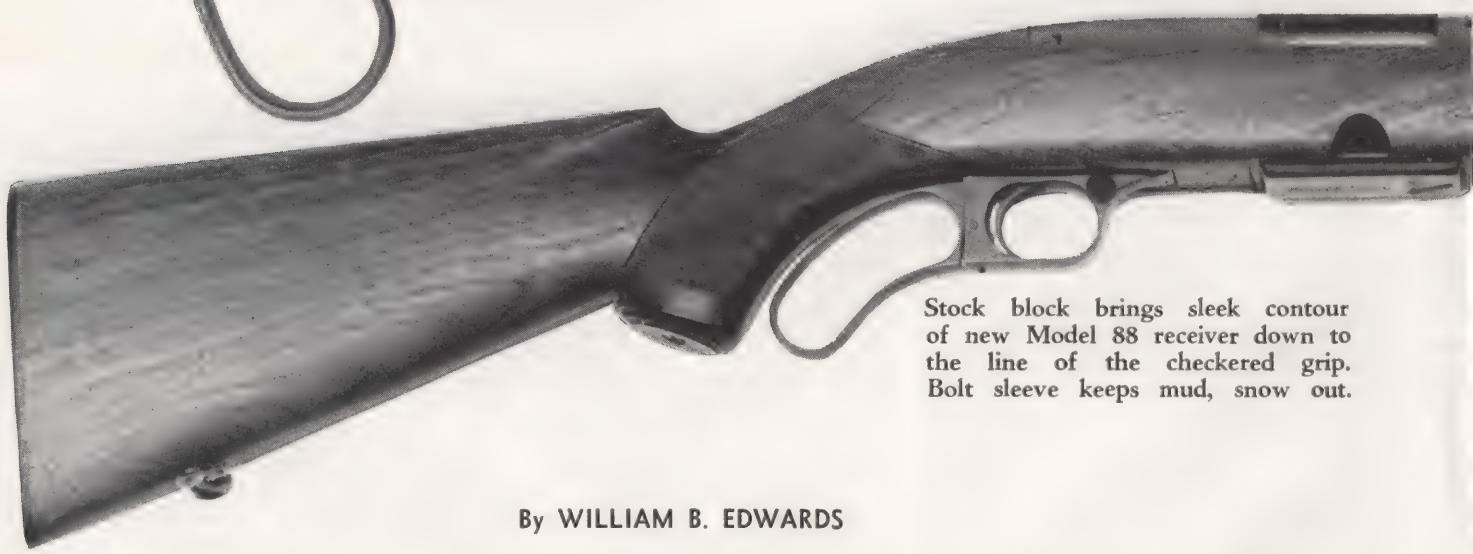
Head of wild boar, fiercest of wild game in eastern U. S., makes fine wall trophy when it is mounted by taxidermist.

After kill, hunter hugs 400-pounder, which mountaineers call "Rooshian."

Carrying boar home, hunters tie their quarry to strong branch and carry game in sling. National Forest in Smokies of Tennessee is relatively wild country.

Trigger of Model 88 moves with the lever to avoid pinching the finger and give maximum lever speed. The lug is the clip latch (right.)

WINCHESTER'S LEVER LIGHTNING



Stock block brings sleek contour of new Model 88 receiver down to the line of the checkered grip. Bolt sleeve keeps mud, snow out.

By WILLIAM B. EDWARDS

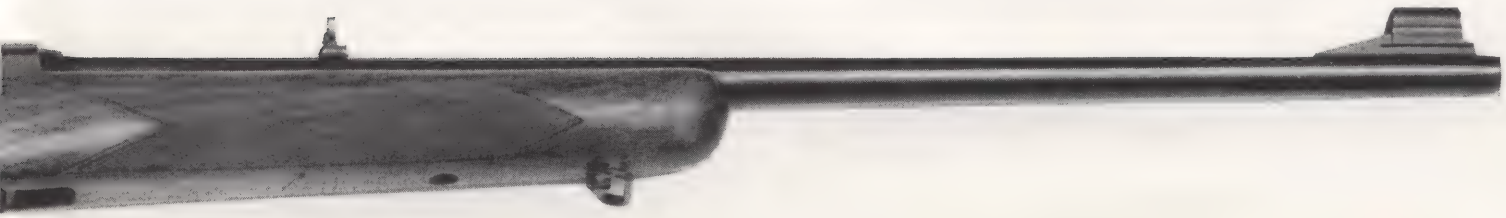
ONE DAY in 1866 engineer B. Tyler Henry handed a new brass-framed lever action rifle to portly Oliver Winchester and remarked, smiling, "Here it is, the first one with your name on it." Stamped on the top of the barrel were the words, "Winchester's Repeating Arms." Since then nearly five million lever action Winchester rifles have been made. The names of these guns, the "Yellow Boy 1866," the famous '73, "the gun that won the west," the heavy "Centennial 1876" and the eternal M94 have become part of America's heritage. Now at last comes the successor to a distinguished line, the streamlined Model 88.

This newest of the Winchester lever guns is about as much like any one of these five million as a gas-turbine automobile is to a "horseless carriage."

Artistically, the new Winchester 88, chambered for the new .308 cartridge, is clean lined. The symmetrical curve of the pistol-grip lever repeats the closed curve of the receiver top. The old, classic squareness of the Model 86 and

NEW LEVER ACTION HUNTING RIFLE IS AMAZINGLY FAST GUN FOR WOOD AND FIELD, HAS VERY ACCURATE TURNING BOLT DESIGN

Firing the Model 88 Winchester from a bench rest with scope revealed that groups of about 3″ at 100 yards were ordinary in this light lever rifle.



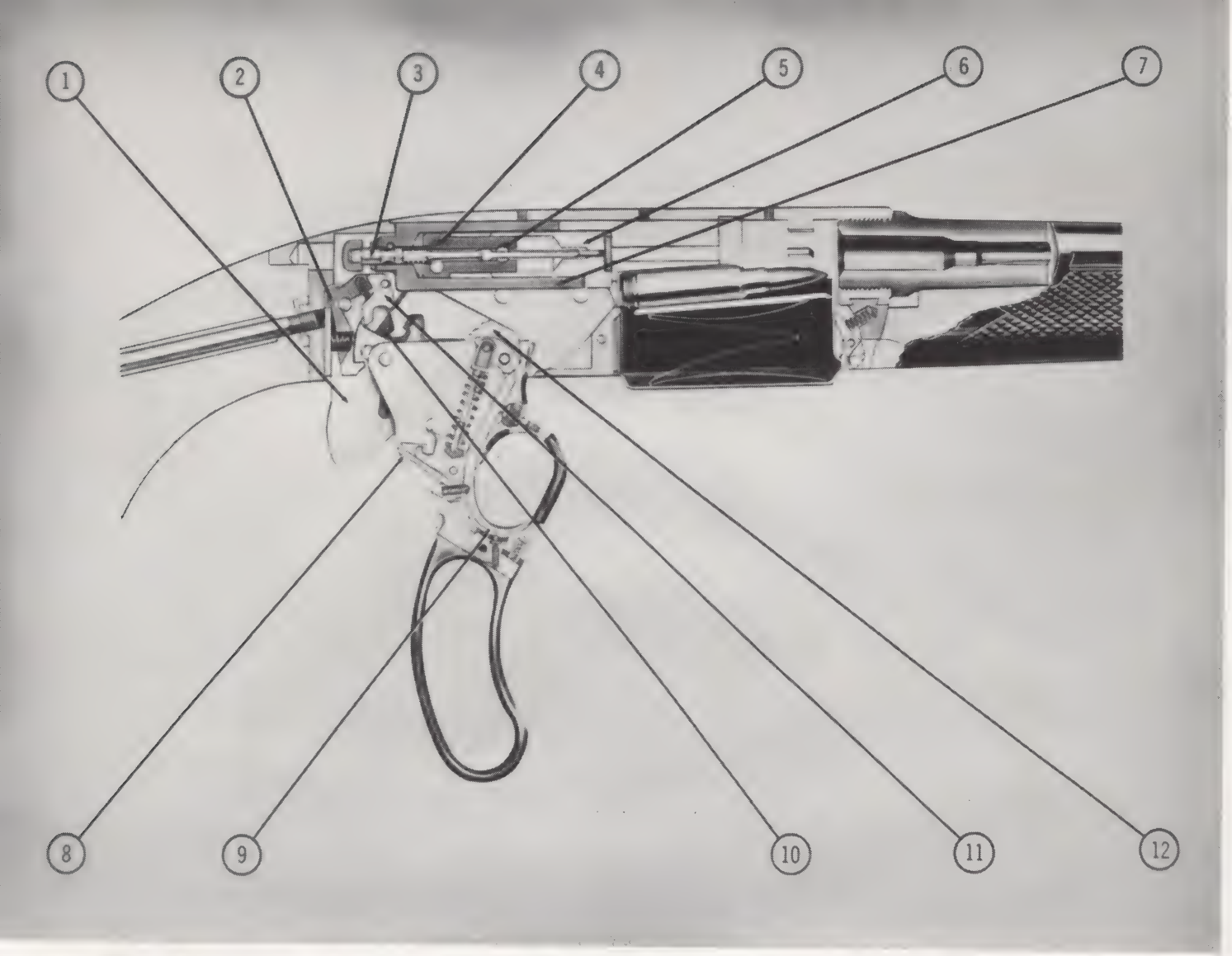
94 receivers, with their rugged Mormon design, has been abandoned in favor of a curve which is both easier to manufacture and is in the trend of modern styling. But the insides of this rifle are even more up-to-the-minute designing.

Project engineer Wally Butler at Winchester has licked two of the major problems baffling the best talent in the gunmaking business for nearly a century. The first problem was to have a trigger-lever design which was proof against the shooter getting his finger pinched accidentally in rapid fire. Ordinary lever guns, with the triggers fixed in the frame bottom, were dangerous in this respect. Even John Browning tackled the problem without good results. His old reliable, known originally as the Model 1886 and still produced in modern dress as the Winchester Model 71, has the trigger fixed to the frame.

Perhaps the closest approach he ever came to solution of this problem was in the Model 95 box-magazine design, the forerunner of the Model 88. The Model 95 was chambered for a line of cartridges including the powerful .405 WCF and the early hot Pyro-loaded M1906 Springfield cartridge. In the .30 caliber, the Model 95's achieved a conflicting reputation. Some liked them, others would get uneasy about "headspace" resulting from the high pressures in the long, springy Model 95 receiver. Extraction of ordinary GI ball M2 .30 caliber fired cases from my Model 95 is very stiff and requires real exertion to keep the gun going. Yet the headspace checks out okay. Characteristic of the Model 95 is the separately-mounted trigger which drops down on a link-bar, as the lever is moved "open."

The new Winchester 88 has features which are entirely new to lever action rifle design. The vision of all lever-gun designers has been to achieve the action strength and solid case support of a bolt gun, combined with the smooth speed of the lever action rifle.

The lever gun has an advantage over bolt action and other types of non-automatic sporting rifles. It is the fastest manual action for a repeating rifle, and if necessary, it can be functioned and fired with one hand. This is important when firing from the back of a skittish horse at a sheep-stealing coyote and was one reason that the early



Trigger and lever unit assembly of Model 88 with bolt detail is shown in phantom view. Parts shown include (1) rear link, (2) guard latch, (3) firing pin, (4) bolt sleeve lock, (5) sleeve lock pin, (6) bolt, (7) bolt sleeve, (8) hammer lock, (9) guard, (10) front link, (11) hammer catch and (12) hammer. Not numbered, the staggered feed detachable clip is shown, with detail of front clip latch for rapid reloading by carrying extra magazines.

Winchesters achieved such tremendous popularity.

An early advertisement claimed that "a resolute man, on horseback, armed with one of these rifles positively cannot be captured." There was some truth to all this, for the Winchester grew up as a fighting gun, as much a part of the American scene as the plough or the revolver.

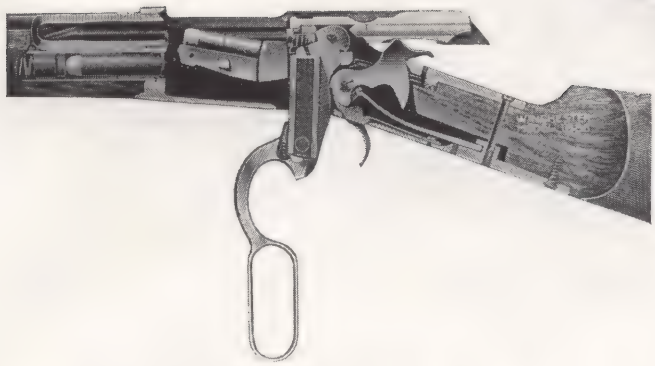
With all this in mind, I unwrapped Winchester's latest prodigy. It was clean lined and very handsome. The same styling is running through the new Winchester line, with the Model 77 autoloader .22 recently introduced setting the style. The metal polish was very fine, better than on most post-war guns, and the color very pleasing. Lyman's new folding elevation-adjustable barrel sight was furnished, with a hooded silver bead ramp sight. The left rear side of the receiver was drilled for Lyman or Redfield receiver sights.

The style lines of the Model 88 weren't entirely new, but the heft and handling sure were. "Man, what a deer rifle," I thought as I swung it to my shoulder and drew a fine bead on an alley cat outside. This was a real hunting gun! The lever action was slick and easy, equally as smooth as the Model 1886 which has been called "the smoothest lever action ever designed." I think the three lug, front locking, rotating bolt Model 88 will shake this crown some.

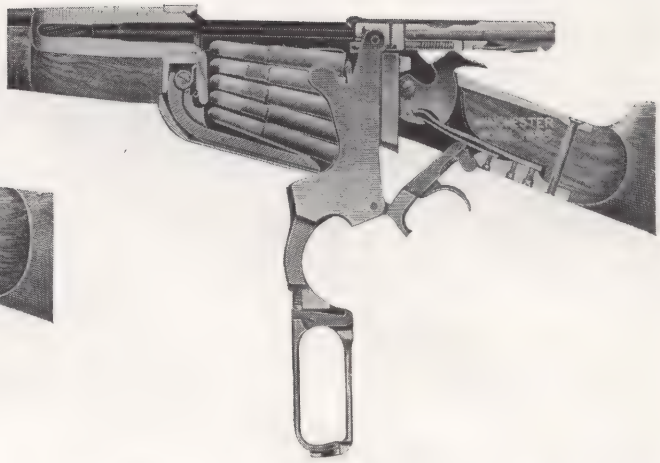
Reason for the smooth action lies with the bolt linkage. The entire first half of the lever movement is used to unlock the bolt and break the breech seal: "primary extraction" with full force. Then the bolt moves quickly for rapid ejection of the fired case. In subsequent firing tests all cases extracted easily, yet showed no stretch marks or significant deformation from original size. All my .308 brass was eagerly picked up by a handloader nearby.

When the lever is reversed, the bolt moves slowly at first, picking up the fresh round and when it is in line with the chamber, snapping it home surely. With the bolt open, a magazine holding five shots can be inserted; otherwise, magazine capacity is four, and one in the chamber. Light in weight, my Model 88 pushed our postal scales down 6¾ pounds, with iron sights. Being left-handed I've always liked the lever action guns.

I tried the Model 88 at the range on two different days. The first day was at once upon receiving the gun. I hiked over to George Pearsall's shop and impatiently waited



Early classic lever gun was John Browning's slick M86. New Model 88 beats this one for speed and smoothness, and unlike the M86, new M88 has trigger in the lever.



Browning's later Model 95 for Winchester had box magazine for pointed bullets, was chambered for hot .30's. Both rifles used sliding breech blocks, rear locked.

twenty minutes while he fitted a Weaver K 2.5 on the gun in Weaver detachable top mounts, using the holes already drilled and tapped in the top of the Model 88 receiver.

The ejection port, placed on the right side of the receiver, allows a low scope mounting directly in line with the gun. This is the first of Winchester's lever action rifles to permit this in-line scope mounting. Pearsall checked the general alignment and handed me the gun with the exclamation, "There, it ought to print on the paper now." The totally enclosed bolt keeps things inside the gun, and in case of a primer puncture it prevents gas from getting out into the shooter's face.

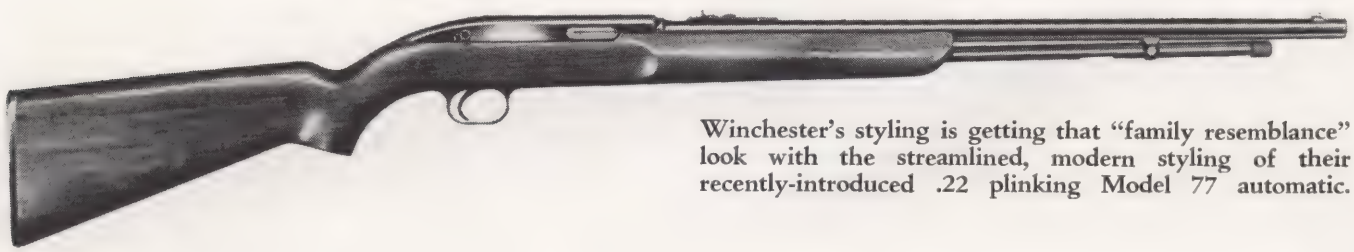
At the range, I put up a standard 100-yard smallbore target for an aiming point, which happened to be the only appropriate sized target I could get at the club house.

The gun functioned well and smoothly. If the lever movement was not done briskly and completely, from open to close or close to open, it was possible to get a hang-up in chambering. This merely required a little more beef on the lever to force the gun closed. Lever action fans are well acquainted with this sort of thing happening in all kinds of older lever guns. There are many contact surfaces in a lever gun and the tolerances allow some looseness in fitting parts. These tolerances can be taken up wrongly and cause some hesitation in the action operation.

On the bench rest, the Model 88 showed good "hunting gun" accuracy. With 150 grain .308 Silvertips, a 3″ group of four or five shots was average. The groups seemed to be consistently in one place on the paper—a little to the left and high of the bull center.

Winchester claims "bolt action accuracy" in a lever gun. I did not have a hunting type bolt action gun myself, but was able to fire three shots with a .300 Magnum which a fellow at the next bench was shooting. It was scope sighted of course, a 4x. Completely unfamiliar with the gun, and with the strange trigger pull I put three shots into a group about 1⅜″ extreme spread. While this was perhaps not a fair test, due to the higher power of the scope, and the fact that it was the highly developed .300 Magnum cartridge, I was also able to shoot at the same time, five shots through a 30-06 Mauser. This particular rifle was one of the post-World War I Kraut-klobbered jobs with the butter-knife bolt handle, paneled stock sides at the action, and a re-re-re-casehardened receiver. The caliber was a trifle sloppy for our .30, being a 7.7mm instead of the correct 7.65mm. Using a gold bead front sight which obliterated the bullseye exactly at 100 yards, and a Lyman aperture of ancient vintage, I put five shots into the paper very close to each other. Three formed a triangular group about 1″ from each other. The other two hit high and low making an extreme vertical spread for the group of about 2″. This was with a rest, and using the double set triggers.

The .300 Magnum man had a screwdriver and we went to work on the stock tension of the Model 88 forearm screw. By loosening it from "dead tight," it was easy to feel the springing away of barrel *(Continued on page 46)*



Winchester's styling is getting that "family resemblance" look with the streamlined, modern styling of their recently-introduced .22 plinking Model 77 automatic.

THE SHOOTING IRONS OF THE SHOOTING ELLIOTTS

BOY WONDER OF GAY 90'S STILL HAS RIFLES WITH WHICH HE AND FATHER AMAZED THOUSANDS AT EXHIBITIONS WITH SPECTACULAR TRICK SHOTS

By G. H. SALISBURY

Rifles used by Elliotts in trick shooting included Hopkins & Allen .22 (top), Winchester M90, Colt .22 and Colt 44-40. Helmet was worn by Elliott during performance, has hole made to convince skeptic metal was slight protection.

THE GAY 90's are remembered by old-timers as an era of plush prosperity, handlebar moustaches, Little Egypt, the first horseless carriages and electric lights; it was also the golden era of exhibition shooting. In the twilight of the 19th Century, touring shows covered the broad expanse of the country, each featuring shooting stars whose amazing feats with rifles never ceased to amaze thousands. Trick shots were truly in their glory.

Today's modern-day shooters have a tendency to look upon the phenomenal records of some of yesterday's marksmen more as legend than fact. Most of the men and women, whose names were emblazoned on huge billboards around the nation in the 90's, are gone. Stories of their deeds are all second-hand.

But one story that is not is the record of "The Boy Wonder Of the 19th Century." He was a five-year-old

youngster named Fred Elliott, who shot a ball off his father's head in one of the most spectacular stunts of all time. Today Fred Elliott is a slender, agile 71-year-old optometrist in upstate New York, whose interest in guns is still intense both from a collector and hunting standpoint. Extremely modest, he is rather reluctant to talk about his early days as an exhibition shooter.

Being a confirmed gun bug, I decided I would look in on "Doc" Elliott, as he is now known to his friends and neighbors.

The first thing Doc told me when I got together with him, however, was: "I'm not a gun collector. These are just guns that have accumulated over the years."

For not being a collector, he has a remarkably fine collection. Two sides of the room were lined with glass cabinets or open shelves. The light gleamed on the polished wood and shiny metal of shotguns, modern sporting arms, old rifles and muzzle loaders. All of them are kept in perfect condition, considering the years . . . and the years have been good to Doc, too.

On his den wall there hangs a large framed photo of a young man in buckskins, holding a "Lightning" .44 Colt rifle and wearing a Colt DA Frontier revolver. Beside him stands Doc as a boy, a tiny lad of seven, clutching a .22 Hopkins & Allen single shot with the stock sawed to fit his small size. Underneath the picture were the words "Capt. A. B. Elliott and son, Freddie."

"Dad took me around with him to the summer fairs," said Doc, recalling the crowded fairgrounds of New York state at Fourth-of-July time. "As a boy I did just what Dad trained me to do," Doc told me, smiling. "I never realized until years later that every time I pulled the trigger Dad escaped death by only a fraction of an inch!" As I listened in wonder, he explained to me the switch his father had

Poster advertising the Elliott act called five-year-old youth "Freddie," a name which he resents as being too familiar.

Steam-powered Locomobile was used as part of act, with targets tossed aloft from moving vehicle. Here Elliott family gathers on car at Greene, N. Y., Fair in 1902. Fred often shot targets while riding backwards on bicycle handlebars.

Doc Elliott checks on some of his guns "just accumulated" over the years. His father knew Buffalo Bill, insisted he was not much of a shot with pistol.

done on the old William Tell story—it was Fred who shot a plaster apple from his father's head.

"In front of a crowd of people," Doc went on, "Dad would load and cock the .22 Colt rifle, then place it upon two tripods. After walking away 25 feet, he would stand facing the gun muzzle. On his head he wore a helmet of light tin on which was placed a 2½ inch hollow ball moulded of lamp black, plaster or rosin."

Doc explained that the rear aperture sight on the Colt was then turned down, out of the way, and the front loop of the old-fashioned "Globe" sight used to sight through. "In the heel of the butt of the gun would be placed a vertical ⅛ inch steel rod bearing at its upper end a small, highly polished sphere. Dad would catch the gleam of this polished sphere through the hole of the front sight."

Demonstrating, Dr. Elliott continued, "Dad would raise his hand with finger extended. The band which had been playing a stirring air would stop abruptly. In the dramatic hush which followed, Dad would drop his raised finger and *that* was my cue to press the trigger. The bullet would speed toward Dad and pulverize the composition ball."

Fascinated, I blurted out "But didn't you ever miss?"

Seth Millard .35 caliber rifle used by Captain Elliott was handmade by master New York gunmaker. Accessories include four parts of the bullet swage and an unusual detachable muzzle rest. Front trigger breaks gun for loading.

"Well, Dad was about 31 years old when we were doing the stunt," Doc replied, "and he lived to the ripe age of 86."

I thought about the black-powder .22 cartridges he must have used in that Colt, inaccurate, prone to leading which could sometimes make a bullet fly wide or keyhole in less than a box of ammo, and thought of the protection he must have had.

"One day at the Chenango County Fair right near our home, when we finished that stunt, a skeptic in the audience who was slightly inebriated heckled Dad, calling out 'Captain Elliott, you aren't taking any chance. That helmet would deflect a bullet.' "

Captain Elliott promptly picked up a loaded .22 rifle, drilled a neat hole in the helmet sitting on the stage, and tossed the headgear contemptuously to the heckler.

Although this aiming stunt was often the climax of the performance, the other marvelous shooting tricks seem to almost equal it. One of the Elliott's old posters proclaimed some of the shots performed:

Shooting with a revolver through balls tossed into the air while riding a horse or bicycle at full speed.

Breaking balls thrown into the air, with rifle bottom-side up, using lead bullets.

With revolver breaking three balls thrown into the air at once.

Shooting through composition balls held in the hand without shattering the balls. (Here the doctor explained, "The balls were made hollow with a hole at one end and a ball would be held so that the bullet would enter this hole and would pass through the sphere without shattering it").

Cutting sticks of candy in two in the air with rifle. (Here he again explained that many of the candies were held between the lips as well as the fingers).

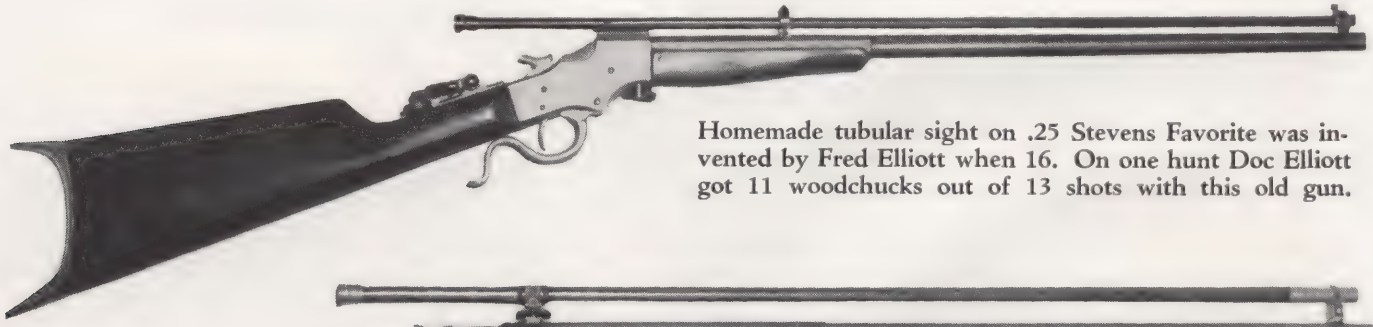
Exploding matches, splitting cards edgewise, held by person at target stand.

Shooting with back to target by aid of mirror.

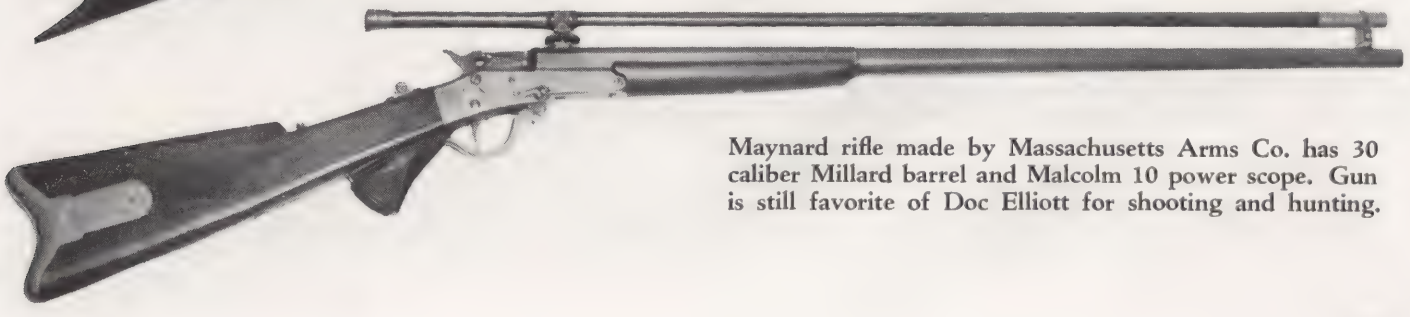
Having survived these stunts, Fred and his father had an added feature. When he was ten years old, Doc was moved forward to star billing on his own.

"I would sit on the handlebars of my bicycle, riding it backwards around the stage. Dad (*Continued on page 60*)

Two Colt slide-action rifles held by Doc Elliott were used most by father-and-son team in their shooting exhibitions.



Homemade tubular sight on .25 Stevens Favorite was invented by Fred Elliott when 16. On one hunt Doc Elliott got 11 woodchucks out of 13 shots with this old gun.



Maynard rifle made by Massachusetts Arms Co. has 30 caliber Millard barrel and Malcolm 10 power scope. Gun is still favorite of Doc Elliott for shooting and hunting.

WHY GUNS BLOW UP

Even strong modern guns like Remington's M'48 (top) or Stevens M620 (bottom) will blow when 12 gauge shell is fired on top of 20 stuck in forcing cone.

EVEN BEST AND STRONGEST OF MODERN GUNS IS FAR FROM BLOWUP-PROOF IF SHOOTERS ARE GUILTY OF NEGLECT AND IGNORING SENSIBLE RULES

By ERVIN P. BARBER

THEY SAY that the nut that holds the wheel is responsible for most auto accidents. I'd like to add, from my years of experience with firearms, that most gun accidents which cross my workbench are caused by a jerk on the trigger. A gun in good condition can stand a great deal of wear without becoming dangerous, but there are limits to the abuse it will take and still remain safe to use. Although all guns before leaving the factory are proof fired with heavy overloads to assure that no hidden weaknesses are overlooked, there are still cases of guns blowing up. These can usually be traced to one of two causes: carelessness or ignorance on the part of the shooter.

Shotguns are chronic offenders in blow-up accidents. Mud, snow or grease in the barrels commonly cause trouble. The first two are easily picked up by accident when a hunter slips and falls. Often there is no outward sign of a plugged bore—until the next shot is fired. Grease in a new gun, or failure to remove a loose cleaning patch, can also produce similar results, and with the shot charge momentarily arrested, the barrel must give way.

In most cases the barrel blows out just behind the obstruction. As the shot charge is slowed momentarily by the obstruction, the base of the shot column and the wadding is immediately compressed under the pressure of the

powder gas. The shot and wadding under compression have nowhere to go but sideways, and the barrel bursts.

A similar effect can be experienced by shutting off the water faucet quickly and listening to the hammering in the pipes as the moving column of water is stopped quickly. The dynamic energy of the moving column of water is changed to a sideways pressure and dissipates itself in the blow given to the inside of the pipe. Since the water pipe is so much stronger in relation to the pressure, all that you get is noise. A shotgun barrel is much thinner, and the pressures are greater: so is the resulting hole!

The next most common way to ruin a shotgun is by inadvertently slipping a sub-caliber shell into the chamber where it will drop down and lodge in the forcing cone. The smaller shell is held in position by its rim just far enough to allow a second shell of the correct gauge to chamber normally. Shooters who use a 20 and a 12 in the field often keep shells of both gauges unthinkingly in their hunting coats, and it is sometimes easy to mistake one for the other in the hurry of reloading a double. When the gun is fired, it is almost certain to blow out the barrel over the chamber.

Pressures alone have nothing to do with this—the charge simply detonates with a force like dynamite. Nothing can hold it in. The ammunition companies, alarmed about this danger, have taken to printing warnings on each shell box and sometimes on each shell. The dangerous sub-calibers are a 16 in a 10 gauge, a 20 in a 12, and a 28 in a 16 or 20 gauge gun.

A shotgunner owning guns of different gauges should make it a policy to empty shooting coats and pockets completely after coming in from a day's hunting. This way the chance of a smaller shell becoming mixed in with a larger one is avoided.

Damascus or twist barrels are another common source of trouble. There are many fine guns around with barrels of these types, which were very highly thought of before the advent of good steel. Some of them were works of art, with intricate patterns of alternate iron and steel worked into the metal by repeated forging and twisting. I have seen a sample barrel made up in the days when Colt put out shotguns: the barrel sample had "Colt Colt Colt"

Movie star William Holden, known for realism of his gun-movie roles, demonstrates elementary safety rule of seeing that bore is not obstructed.

A careless double charge in a .38 Special handload lifted the lid off new "Combat" S & W. Shooter was fortunately not injured but sure scared.

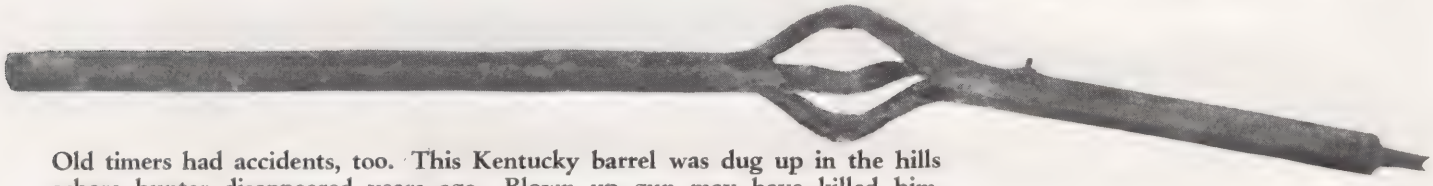
Fine English percussion double-gun was destroyed by deliberate ignorance on the part of the shooter when he loaded Damascus barrels with modern nitro powder charge "just to see what it would do." He saw.

running in a spiral in the metal.

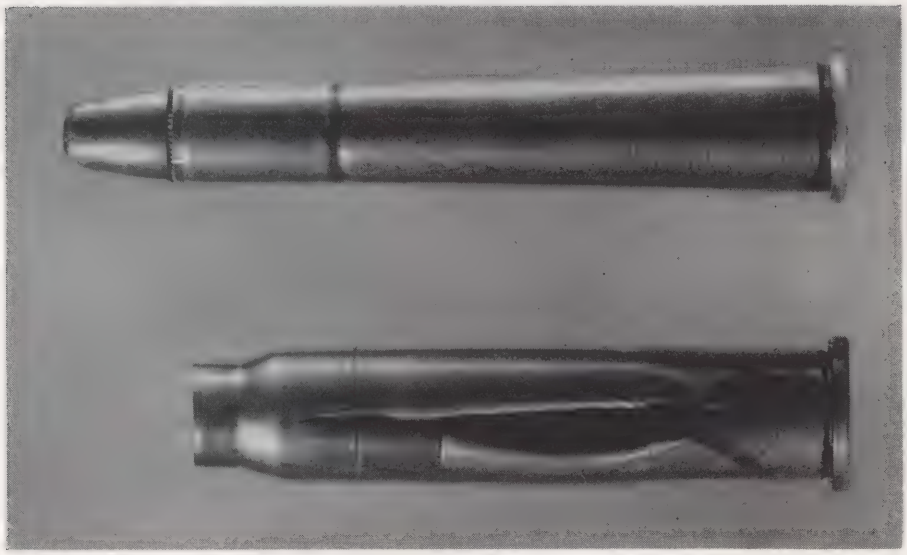
A very good grade of workmanship was necessary to make a barrel this way. It was built up by twisting the metal around a mandrel and welding, and a barrel welded from alternate iron and steel bars cannot be any stronger than its weakest iron. The use of higher pressure smokeless loads, in such barrels designed for black powder, will soon show up this weakness.

Many shooters claim to have been shooting modern smokeless powder loads in these guns with no trouble at all. Some appear to have been shooting powerful express, high-base loads for years in "twist" guns. This is like driving at high speeds with tires worn down to the fabric. You just don't know when something is going to let loose suddenly.

About 1900 to 1910, solid steel barrels came into general use on shotguns, but the most expensive kinds still had quality, hand-made Damascus or twist barrels. There were shooters who would have nothing on their guns but Damascus tubes. Some of the gun companies "hoosiered up" on them by etching or painting Damascus patterns on plain steel barrels. This is one case where the customer was sold a superior product, under the impression he was getting a wanted but inferior kind.



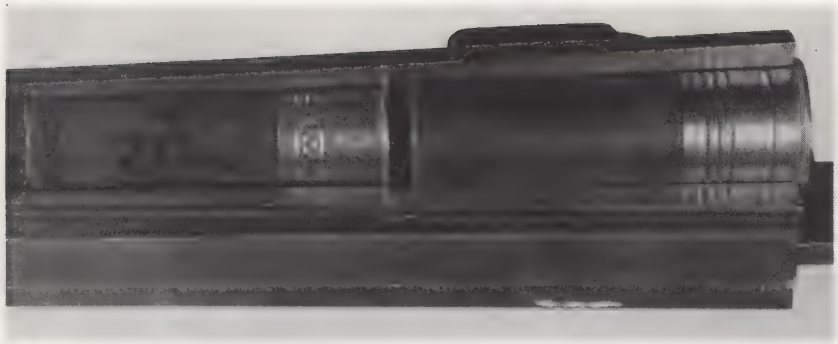
Old timers had accidents, too. This Kentucky barrel was dug up in the hills where hunter disappeared years ago. Blown up gun may have killed him.



Normal 32/40 cartridge (top) is sometimes fired by mistake in much larger 30/40 Krag chamber which ruptures the cartridge case (bottom), and may release gas into the action and damage eyesight or blow up the gun.

Stevens guns of the better grade, in the days when Stevens double guns were built to watchmaker standards, and sold for $35, with several styles of Damascus or twist barrels, were advertised as having been proved for use with smokeless powder.

"Damascus Finish" is usually a give-away, and the barrels are probably plain steel. But unless it is categorically marked "Damascus steel" or "Twist," there is a good chance that the old, "dangerous" barrel is actually plain steel. This can easily be checked by polishing a spot under the foreend to a high finish, and daubing some cold blue solution on it. The genuine twist pattern will apear if watched closely while the solution is working on the barrel. If no pattern shows, it is probably plain steel, and moderate smokeless loads can then be used safely.



Cut-away double shotgun barrel shows the ease with which an unnoticed 20 gauge shell can fit in a 12 gauge chamber, blocking the 12's shot.

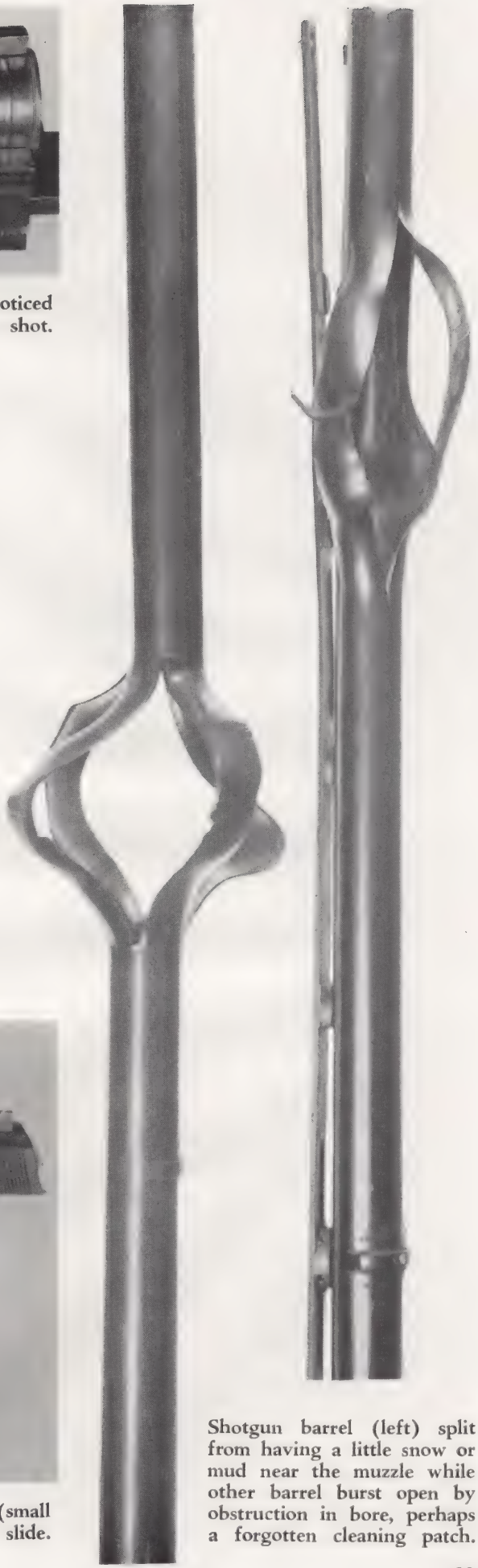
The spot test is useful to avoid damaging a fine gun which has a collector's value, and returns to safe service a good gun otherwise thought unsafe. But the true "acid test" comes next: loading an express or magnum load in the chamber, with the gun tied to an old tire, and setting it off by using a long, long string.

If the gun really has Damascus barrels, it may not be mechanically in good condition. But if it is okay, then safe loading of black powder charges will give many hours of shooting pleasure from a Damascus-barreled gun.

Shotguns are prone to a danger due to the design of the shells. Space must be left ahead of the shell in the chamber to accommodate the portion of the shell that is turned in to form the crimp. This extra chamber length allows a shell longer than the chamber was designed for, to seat easily.

A 3″ magnum shell will readily drop into the 2¾″ 12 gauge chamber. When fired, the crimp is blown out along the sides of the forcing cone ahead of the chamber. This taper from the outside shell diameter to bore diameter when lined with the thickness of the shell's paper walls, forms a constriction that prevents the shot charge from moving freely. *(Continued on page 50)*

Reassembling P-38 auto pistol without its essential locking block (small piece separate) will result in severe damage, may be blowing off slide.



Shotgun barrel (left) split from having a little snow or mud near the muzzle while other barrel burst open by obstruction in bore, perhaps a forgotten cleaning patch.

CUSTER'S LAST MAN

Custer's last stand, portrayed in Budweiser beer poster for years, was reenacted in Hollywood movie, "Sitting Bull." Film repeated mistakes of poster, showing sabers used (there were none in the battle) and Colt Peacemaker carried by Custer (he had an English "Bulldog"). Sitting Bull's Winchester #124375 (right) was probably used by Indian chief in leading his braves into battle in Dakota.

NO SURVIVORS! No survivors!

For years that has been the accepted version of Custer's last stand—the Battle of the Little Big Horn in which Col. George Armstrong Custer and his 264 troops were wiped out by 2500 warriors of the Sioux, Cheyenne and Indian allies. The legend of "no survivors" has been parroted by militarists, historians and writers ever since Captain E. Godfrey surveyed the white, mutilated bodies which covered a slight hill. The scene looked like a scattering of boulders and several soldiers asked: "What are those."

"The dead," was Captain Godfrey's laconic reply.

The ignominy of Custer's defeat was stamped upon the nation's mind. The slaughter was emphasized by the report that not a single man had lived. Custer's campaign represented the most embarrassing, uncoordinated and ill-planned campaign in U.S. history.

But the facts are that there was a last man in Custer's last stand!

He was a sergeant named Frank August Finkel and he died a natural death 54 years after Custer made his last stand in what is now Montana. I spoke to his widow and was able to collect the full story of Finkel and his remarkable escape from the wrath of Indians in the Dakota Territory. But even more amazing was the way in which he kept his account of the Custer battle a secret because he was afraid of being branded a fraud.

Listed on the death roll as Sergeant August Finckle, the lone battle survivor for years was close-mouthed about his role. He changed his name to read Finkel and became a

DESPITE LEGEND THAT THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS IN HISTORIC BATTLE WITH INDIANS, ONE SERGEANT DID TURN UP YEARS LATER AND TELL HOW HE ESCAPED FROM DAKOTA SLAUGHTER

By KATHRYN WRIGHT

Gallant Colonel Custer led all his troops to slaughter on the Little Big Horn, but Sergeant F. A. Finkel, shown with his wife (left) shortly before his death in 1930, claimed he escaped before the Sioux swept over the soldiers. Grassy knoll was soaked in blood in a scene much like that recreated for the screen in United Artists movie "Sitting Bull" (below).

Only known picture of Sitting Bull standing up was taken about 1885 when he was with Buffalo Bill Wild West Show.

Colonel Custer owned many weapons, such as this special Springfield, but carried Remington sporter in last battle.

prosperous wheat farmer on a northern Montana ranch.

Once he tried to tell his story. He was called a liar and thrown into the guardhouse as a result. That is when he vowed to keep silent.

The story of his escape finally came to light only after his death. It proved that Finkel and Finckle were one and the same.

It was after Finkel's death in 1930 that his widow, later Mrs. H. C. Billmeyer of Oshkosh, Wis., sorted through papers and other possessions belonging to the ex-cavalryman. She turned them over to Dr. Charles Kuhlman of Billings, Mont., eminent Custer battle student and author of "Legend Into History," an analytical study of the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

In Kuhlman, Finkel's widow found a believer.

Another with faith in the Finkel escape was the late Charles A. Windolph of Lead, S. D., who had served as a Seventh Cavalry sergeant under Captain F. W. Benteen. Windolph wrote Mrs. Billmeyer: "I knew Frank Finkel well and searched in vain for his body."

Little would Finkel have cared who believed or scoffed. He'd learned his lesson at the hands of a questioning officer at Fort Benton, Mont., in the fall of 1876; and he knew better than to talk about the Custer episode. Only once in his later years did he break the silence. That was done to keep peace and quiet in his home.

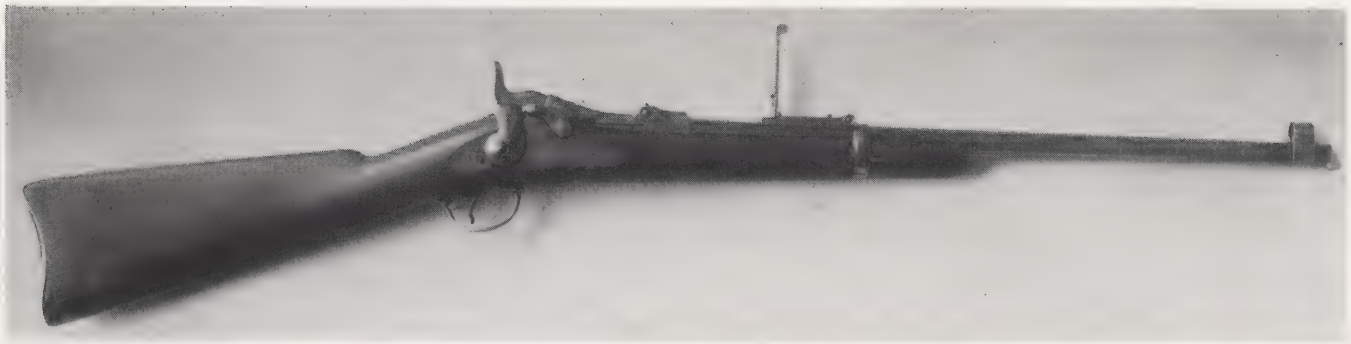
Only to stop his wife's incessant nagging did this taciturn, grim-lipped farmer ride reluctantly one day in 1921 into Dayton, Washington, then his home town, to grudgingly describe for a Kiwanis Club audience his experiences as a runaway farm boy, a green recruit among the men who followed Custer.

The Battle of the Little Big Horn was at its height when Finkel was wounded. With his line of C troopers, still mounted and fighting, carbines and Colts pistols against lance and arrow, Finkel tried to hold a ridge south of the hill where Custer in the next half hour was to make his stand. The ridge faced the river. Beyond that was the underestimated Indian camp, from which were still coming the 2,500 hundred warriors who were to wipe out Custer's force, *almost to the last man!*

The route of Finkel's escape lay from that blood-soaked knoll in southeastern Montana to a secluded gun runner's hut. "We're trapped like rats," thought Finkel desperately as he fired his Springfield .45 carbine at the oncoming horde. A bullet, probably from one of the few Winchester '66 carbines the Indians had, struck the stock of his carbine. The shock numbed him. Another slapped his forehead—he tried to wipe the blood from his eyes. His fear-crazed horse plunged through a gap in the mass of painted, screeching savages. Wounded, Finkel lost control of his horse. Flattening himself over the horse's withers, the young sergeant hung on in a wild ride through cavalrymen and Indians battling to the death.

Three Indians gave chase, and a bullet struck Finkel in the side. Another shattered his right foot, but the frantic sorrel gathered new speed and outdistanced the Indian ponies. The savages fired parting shots and turned back to the easier targets on the hill.

The horse raced on. Finkel at last got a grip on the reins and pulling up his horse, slipped to the ground. His foot still bled. Tearing a strip from his undershirt, he fashioned a tourniquet. In desperation, gritting his teeth against the pain, he swung a leg over the light sorrel, and rode on.

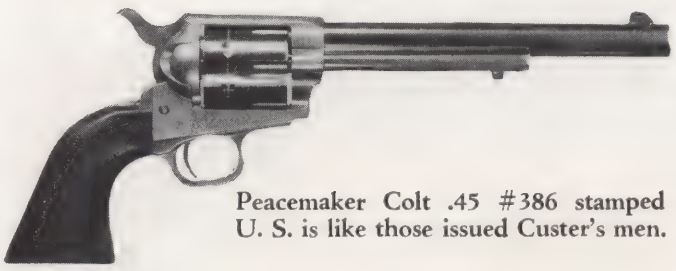


Springfield 1873 Carbines fired nearly 25,000 standard 45/70 cartridges against the Sioux in battle. Guns numbered up to 45,000 may have legitimate claim to being relics of the Custer battle if with genuine Sioux or Cheyenne association.

It was afternoon when he broke from the fighting. Now purple twilight was blackening into night. In the bottom of a draw he saw a glitter—water! Dazed, weak and thirsty, he slid from the saddle and strained toward the water. It was alkali and twisted his stomach: he vomited. Nearby his horse had rejected the bad water and was nuzzling the ground for precious moisture. Then its head lifted alertly as a whinny sounded in the dusk. Two riders approached. Silhouetted against the yellow sky, their war bonnets were seen. With a prayer, Finkel slowly drew his cocked revolver beneath him, and played dead.

The Indians spotted the riderless horse, jumped to the ground, and crept up stealthily. Circling cautiously, they gave Finkel's apparently lifeless body a couple of kicks. Then they moved toward the cavalry horse. Finkel rolled over and fired his revolver twice. Struggling to his feet, he stumbled over to the prone figures of the Indians and fired a shot into each for good measure.

Hunger combined with the pain of thirst inside him. Under sagebrush he saw a huddled shape—a setting prairie hen. He killed the hen, tossed the bird aside and reached into the nest for an egg. Head tilted back, Finkel put the tip to his lips and broke the shell—then gagged at the thing slipping into his mouth. The egg had been ready to hatch. The raw bird was no better. Retching, he pulled himself up on his horse.



Peacemaker Colt .45 #386 stamped U. S. is like those issued Custer's men.

The short night passed in a daze of weariness and stiffening wounds. At dawn, the flat plain was broken by the jagged outlines of a wooded area. Riding to the timber, Finkel at last found a stream of fresh water. A short distance from the stream Finkel came into a clearing, where a man was chopping wood in front of a rude hut. "One more step, soldier," said the woodchopper as he drew a gun, "and I'll shoot you." Finkel, *(Continued on page 48)*

Silent gravestones at Montana monument mark places where 26 of Custer's men died, supposedly including Sergeant Finkel.

City Of Gunmakers

With the trophies of the hunt on the wall of his parlor, hunter Johann Sigot and his son, Arthur, examine a new Ferlach double rifle.

GUNSMITHS OF FERLACH MAINTAIN 400-YEAR TRADITION IN TURNING OUT SOME OF FINEST HUNTING ARMS MADE ANYWHERE IN WORLD

By FRED H. BAER

Single-shot Pirschstutzen is designed for long range accuracy in hunting auerhahn (above), an Austrian mountain grouse. It is favorite of Ferlach hunters.

THE CITY of Ferlach in southern Austria nestles in the hills like a cut jewel in the palm of a great hand. Stretching high to the clouds, walling the town with slopes of verdant forest tapering to glittering snowy spires, the Carinthian Alps near the Italo-Austrian border, have protected this town through four centuries. Yet no town has needed less protection: every workingman in Ferlach and many women are gunmakers. The entire village is one vast arsenal, a city of gunmakers.

Ferlach gunsmiths are specialists in supplying a gun "built to order." The stock, locks, caliber and barrel length, engraving, style of buttplate and trigger guard, and even the kind of finish on the stock, can be to the customer's wishes. At present 21 basic types of hunting shotguns, rifles, and combination shotguns-and-rifles are in the production program, from .22 Savage or "Vierling" up to the big .375 Magnum, from 20 gauge to 12 gauge.

The mark "Ferlach" on a gun refers to no single gunmaker, with the exception of the Franz Sodia factory which turns out about 1,000 rifles a year. Sodia has equipped his four shops with modern milling and boring machinery and rifling machines obtained through the Marshall Plan aid in 1951 and 1952. The rest of the gunmakers are individual contractors who are members of the Genossenshaft der meister Buchsenmacher in Ferlach, a voluntary membership association which regulates the work to the best advantage of all the members. In the Genossenshaft are 23 buchsenmachers, meister gun makers, each employing from two to 20 apprentices, or journeymen and some few women.

Half of all the work done is at home, with file and cold chisel, draw-knifing a new stock, or the delicate and exacting skill of engraving. With a yearly total production of about 3,000 rifles and shotguns, the

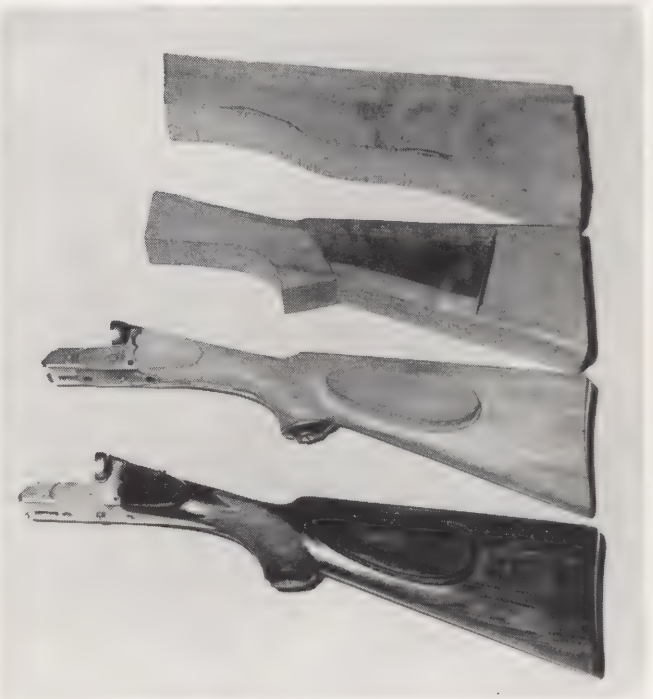
Typical small shop of Ferlach is owned by Joseph Franzoi, who has been gunsmithing more than 40 years.

Teutonic relief carving depicts St. Hubertus, legendary patron of hunters, viewing stag with Cross between his horns. Engraving takes over 130 hours work by craftsman, who will do any design ordered.

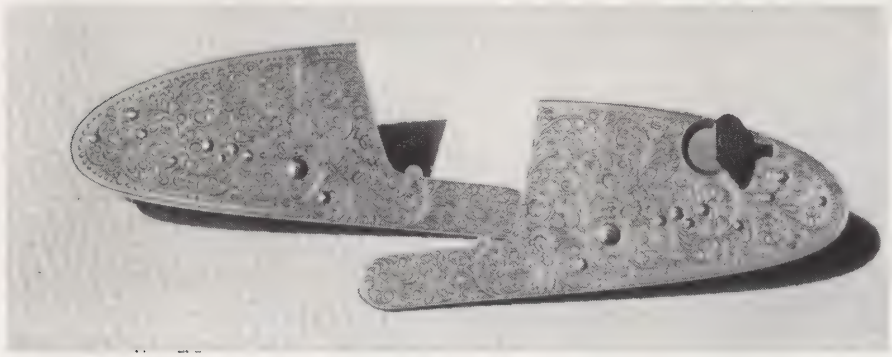
Stockmaker Robert Schaschl works on black walnut cured five years, which is grown in vicinity of Ferlach.

the people of Ferlach are working comfortably close to capacity the year around.

The demand for Ferlach guns is based on three qualities. First, the accuracy of the rifles and patterning of the shotguns places them among the best hunting arms made. Their rugged durability is a second attraction. Third, for extra finish and special work, engraving or inlay, fancy woods and deluxe work throughout, the prices are surprisingly low. Similar American handmade guns would be prohibitive in cost. One wealthy American sportsman, the late Ralph Packard, spent $10,000 on just one hand-



Rifle stock from blank to butt is shown. Owners of Ferlach guns include Shah of Persia and other notables.



Representing about one-third of the gun's cost, Ferlach engraving comes in all styles from the realistic sculpturing of animals of the chase, to fine English-type scroll work. The auerhahn and chamois are favorite patterns.

made rifle which was of a modified Mauser pattern. Yet despite the high prices, the desire for such arms exists, and Ferlach "buchsenmachers" believe they will be in business as long as there are connoisseurs of fine arms—fine in finish, and fine in shooting.

With 70 per cent of their production going for export, mostly to America, new life has come in the postwar years to a 400-year old tradition. That tradition of Ferlach seems as old as the granite hills which rim it, and as romantic as the crystal, wine-like air of Ferlach. It is a hunter's air, which carries from the forests in season the strange cry of the birkhahn and auerhahn, the world's wiliest game birds, or the mating call of the red deer . . . everywhere is the spirit of "waidmann's heil." It is the greeting and salute of the jaeger to the hunter after a successful hunt, and carries with it friendly commendation of a job well done.

Now it is the hunt which keeps the forges of Ferlach glowing. In the beginning it was another cause, Vulcan had Mars for his bellows-boy.

In the 16th century, Austria's Emperor Ferdinand I (1522 to 1564) brought 100 master gunsmiths from Liege,

Ball vise holds breech with lock plates fitted as skilled Ferlach engraver works out intricate pattern.

Students in the gunsmith school learn engraving by using stuffed animals as models in Ferlach classroom.

Master gunmaker wearing Ferlach traditional uniform instructs youthful apprentice in Blitz trigger mechanics.

Checking straight bore on 3-barrel gun is done by means of tight bowstring which casts shadow line along barrel interior that is warped where bore is bent before straightening.

a city then under Austrian rule and now Belgium. These Flemish and Walloon gunmakers, many of whose names survive today in the families, were settled in Ferlach to build weapons for his soldiers.

Each of the 100 was a master in his own field—whether barrel-making, lock-filing and fitting, stock making, finishing, decorating, assembling or "setting up," adjusting and regulating. Each gun passed through the hands of eight masters before delivery to the warehouses and the Imperial Army. The trade was taught by father to son.

Since each master produced only a part of the completed gun, a governing and coordinating organization was necessary. The Ferlacher Genossenshaft, or co-operative, was first organized in 1577.

The Buchsenmachermeisters, or master gun makers, of Ferlach were a distinguished company. Formed into a guild, they were virtually the exclusive arms makers for the Empire from 1590 to 1815. Special privileges included their own uniforms, and a Schuetzen fraternity active until 1918. Many of the present-day gunsmiths still wear the quaint regional uniform on dress occasions.

The industry hummed with orders for the Imperial Army. The Thirty Years War (1618 to 1648) absorbed all Ferlach could produce. Muskets, rifles, carbines and pistols replaced bows and lances for the Imperial Cavalry, keeping the Ferlachers busy. During the reign of Charles VI (1711 to 1740), a state-financed bayonet and ramrod factory was added by the nearly 200 licensed master gunsmiths then employed. During the next 40 years, the height was reached in war production, when the entire Imperial Austrian Army was supplied with Ferlach weapons. Then 300 gunmakers were listed, and 22 barrel mills were in full operation.

So important were the military orders, that an army testing and inspection command was established there, with one officer and 30 men on permanent duty.

During the Napoleonic wars from 1800 to 1815, Ferlach delivered 126,752 muskets, 47,044 carbines, and 56,956 cavalry pistols to the Austrian Army. Twice, in 1809 and 1813, Ferlach was threatened by French invasion. The Ferlach gunmakers evacuated all the gun parts both times and floated their whole arsenal down river to safety . . . a considerable saving in cash as well as weapons.

The large Army orders were *(Continued on page 55)*

CARTRIDGES
QUIPS QUOTES & QUERIES

By STUART MILLER

Rare Allen Lip-Fire Cartridges

THE DESIRE of gunmakers to get around Smith and Wesson's cartridge patent of 1856 and still make metallic cartridge revolvers brought forth some peculiar results. One of them was the Allen lip-fire cartridge with the priming compound in the projecting lip at the base of the cartridge.

These cartridges were made in four calibers. Each caliber was given a model or catalog number. The .25 caliber was No. 50; the .32 cal., No. 52; the .36 cal. for their Navy Revolver was No. 56; while the .44 caliber for the Army Revolver was No. 58. The .25 cal. was for a seven-shot revolver, and was packed in conventional boxes of

50 rounds. The .32, .36, and .44 were all for six shooters, and as can be seen in the photo were packed in boxes of 24 rounds to give four cylinders full.

In the label, the manufacturers place great emphasis on the fact that these are "Water-Proof Pistol Cartridges." Now we take this for granted, but in those days, when most of the pistols and revolvers were still being fed loose powder and ball, this was indeed a selling point!

I was unable to find out what these lip-fire shells sold for originally, but found them listed in a James Bown & Sons, Pittsburgh, catalog of 1875. They state that while these cartridges were no longer being manufactured, they still had three calibers available. The .25 calibers sold at $1.25, the .32's at $2.50 and the .44 calibers sold at $3.00 per 100. There is a chance that these prices may represent a close-out sale of semi-obsolete items, rather than regular list price.

All of these cartridges that I have ever seen were made either by Allen and Wheelock, or their succssors, Ethan Allen & Co. both of Worcester, Mass. This latter company also made a few varieties of rim-fire ammunition.

Multi-Ball For Shooting

If you've considered the multi-ball as purely a military cartridge for guard duty and riots, I have news for both of us. The Phoenix Metallic Cartridge Co.—later the American Metallic Cartridge Co. of South Coventry, Conn. —turned out quite a line of center fire and rim fire multi-ball cartridges. Turner & Ross of Boston in their 1880 catalog gives quite a writeup on them:

"Three Balls At Once! . . . The greatest invention in ammunition ever perfected . . . Dozens of similar cartridges made, but they all leaded the rifle barrel and spoiled it. With the New Phoenix Cartridge, this is impossible. An envelope of papier mache completely covers the balls protecting them from the rifling . . . These cartridges will put all three balls through a man's body at 150 yards and even farther! The following are the only calibers that can now be furnished: .44 S&W Army Revolver, American Model; .44 S&W Army Revolver, Russian Model; .44 M.H.&Co Army Revolver; .45 Colt Army Revolver; .44 cal. Evans Rifle; and .44 caliber Straight Rifle cartridge, all center fire, and .44 caliber rim fire rifle cartridges . . ." Prices ranged from $1.80 to $2.50 per 100.

Personally I take that statement about the accuracy and penetration at 150 yards with considerably more than a grain of salt! Advertisers were not exactly modest about their claims, even in those days.

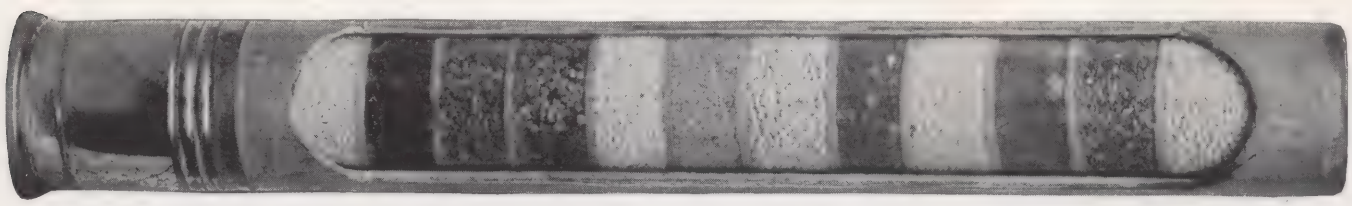
Since the company also put out bird shot cartridges with the same type paper shot container, the multi-balls are usually hard to spot. About the only way I have found, is to try to feel the contours of the load through the envelope, but be careful not to damage the paper.

One of the more colorful means of advertising shotgun shells were the display shells. These were generally sent out to the hardware dealers, in sets of five or six shells, either by the ammunition companies or their jobbers. These dummy shells usually had a transparent window set in the side of the shell, so that the construction of the shell, the powder, shot, and wads, could be shown and explained to the prospective customer.

One of the most interesting display shells that I have seen is shown below. Brought out in the early 1900s, this display shows the various makes of smokeless powder that were factory loaded in the Winchester "Leader," "Repeater," "Metal-Lined" and "Pigeon" shells.

The shell is six inches over all, and has the high brass base of the 12 gauge Leader.

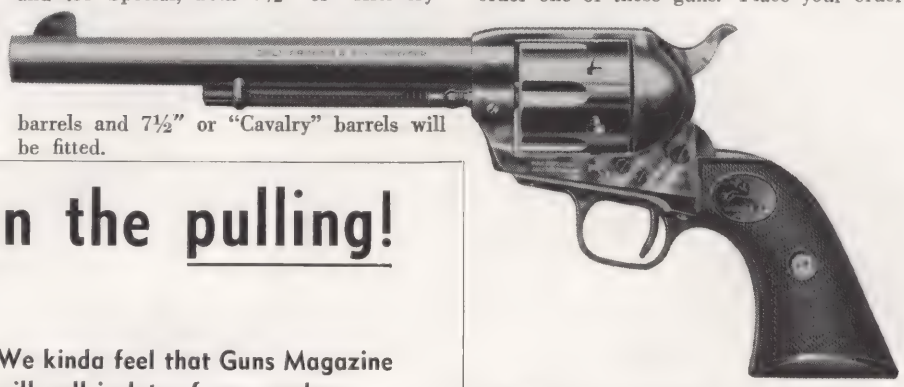
The powders shown are: New E. C., Walsrode, Ballistite, Du Pont, L & R Infallible, E. C. No. 1, American Dead Shot, New Schultze, Rifleite, Hazard Blue Ribbon, New Troisdorf, and E. C. No. 2. The colors of these powders include black, deep blue, red-brown, green, orange and pure white.



By H. Jay Erfurth

Colt To Make Single Action Again

Biggest news of the year is the announcement from Colt's Manufacturing Company that the famous "Peacemaker" single action Colt revolver, discontinued in 1946, will again be offered to the shooters of America who have always wanted one of these fine historical firearms. The calibers will be .45 and .38 Special, both 5½" or "Artillery" barrels and 7½" or "Cavalry" barrels will be fitted.



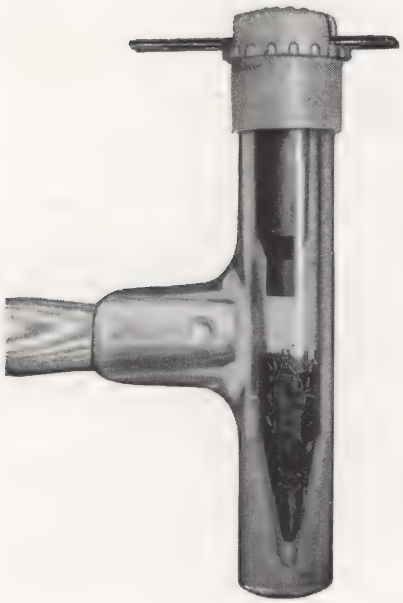
The "Peacemaker" will be produced in limited quantity and will be built precisely as it was made before World War II, that is it will be a forged gun with case hardened frame and the old original hard rubber grips. It will be manufactured on limited tooling on a more or less handmade basis, and production quantities will be limited. The gun is expected to be available in small numbers during October. A tentative price of $125 is announced.

Do NOT write to the Colt Company to order one of these guns. Place your order through your local firearms dealer. The less letterwriting the folks at Hartford have to do on this gun, the faster they can make them and ship them to your dealer.

Nosler H-Bullet

JOHN NOSLER, maker of the famous "partition jacket bullets," offers a wide variety of bullet weights for the handloader. The Nosler H-design employs a bullet jacket with a solid partition midway in the slug. This permits controlled expansion to more than double the bullet diameter for the first half of the bullet, but the base will hold together instead of flying into fragments. This permits good penetration and shocking power with bullets of ordinary weight and velocity. Bullets in .30 caliber are offered in 150 grain, 180 grain, and 200 grain weights, while 7mm and .270 bullets are also in the line. Prices are modest for precision bullets. Nosler (382 Wightman Street, Ashland, Oregon) sets prices in the different calibers at about $4.50 to $5 per box of 50 bullets.

The proof is in the pulling!



We kinda feel that Guns Magazine will pull in lots of new readers . . . just as easy as our bullet puller pulls bullets!

TRANSPARENT
INERTIA BULLET PULLER

Prevents distorted bullets and cases . . . saves "loads" of time! Just place cartridge in proper fitting, insert in puller head and strike puller sharply. Out comes the bullet —just like magic!

Made of hard, durable Tenite plastic.

Price includes complete set of fittings for full range, .22 Hornet thru .45/70 plus most wildcats and magnums.

$6.60 EA. POSTPAID

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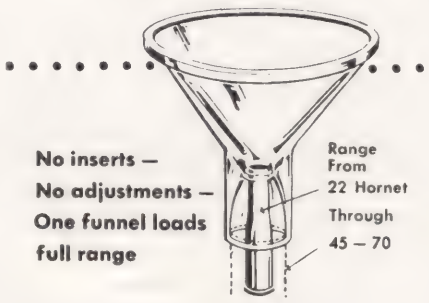
$1.00 EACH Postpaid



Guns
4116 Fannin, Houston, Texas

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"I HORSE TRADED A STABLE FULL OF GUNS FROM SCOTLAND YARD"

"Now here's my deal for you. Some time ago I got word that Scotland Yard wanted to unload a rogue's gallery full of pistols and revolvers that they've been lifting off of thugs and scalawags over there for the last fifty years. I bought the whole batch and they're sitting out back right now."

"Some of these guns are so old they look like they had bows and arrows traded in on them. Some of them are guns I never even heard of. They aren't in mint condition but I can guarantee that they were kept inside all this time (not out in the yard).

"I'll ship you 2 of these guns to hang on your wall for $17.00 or three for $23.00 together with a notarized personal letter from me verifying their origin. If you don't like 'em you can ship 'em back and I will refund your money."

TWO DIFFERENT SCOTLAND YARD GUNS 17.00 FOB BURBANK

THREE DIFFERENT SCOTLAND YARD GUNS 23.00 FOB BURBANK

JAPANESE NAMBU 8 MM AUTOMATIC

8 MM AUTOMATIC Good condition. A famous souvenir and a truly remarkable weapon. Only a few left. $19.95

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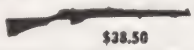
COLT .455 AUTO PISTOL

A real collector's item. Original blue, very good condition. Only a few in this country. Made for British government. If you want to shoot .45 cal. A.C.P. ammo all you need is an American .45 clip and you're in business. $39.95

ENFIELD .410 SHOTGUNS $38.50



Very rare and unusual. Looks exactly like an Enfield .303 but really a .410 gauge single shot. Used by British officers in India for bird shooting.

GREAT WESTERN FRONTIER SIXSHOOTERS

.45 COLT $97.50

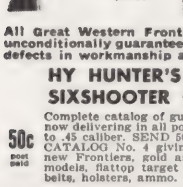
BARREL: 4¾", 5½", 7½" LENGTH OVER ALL: 10⅜" with 5½" barrel WEIGHT: With 7½" bbl., 38½ oz., 5½" bbl., 37 oz., 4¾" bbl., 36 oz. SIGHTS: Fixed standard single action Army. (Fitted with micro target adjustable sights, $20 extra.) GRIPS: Tenite Stag FINISH: Bright blue, case hardening colors on frame FRAME: .45 Caliber

.38 SMITH & WESSON SPECIAL $97.50

BARREL: 4¾", 5½", 7½" LENGTH OVER ALL: 10¼" with 4¾" barrel WEIGHT: With 7½" bbl., 44½ oz., 5½" bbl., 42½ oz., 4¾" bbl., 41¼ oz. SIGHTS: Fixed standard single action Army. (Fitted with micro target adjustable sights, $20 extra.) GRIPS: Tenite Stag FINISH: Bright blue, case hardening colors on frame FRAME: .45 Caliber

.44 SMITH & WESSON SPECIAL $125.00

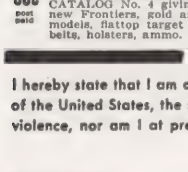
BARREL: 4¾", 5½", 7½" LENGTH OVER ALL: 10¼" with 4¾" barrel WEIGHT: With 7½" bbl., 41½ oz., 5½" bbl., 39½ oz., 4¾" bbl., 38¼ oz. SIGHTS: Fixed standard single action Army. (Fitted with micro target adjustable sights, $20 extra.) GRIPS: Tenite Stag FINISH: Bright blue, case hardening colors on frame FRAME: .45 Caliber



.357 ATOMIC $125.00

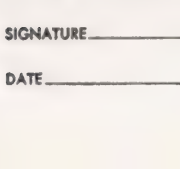
Fires short, long, long rifle.

BARREL: 4¾", 5½", 7½" LENGTH OVER ALL: 12⅛" with 7½" barrel WEIGHT: With 7½" bbl., 44 oz., 5½" bbl., 42 oz., 4¾" bbl., 41½ oz. SIGHTS: Fixed standard single action Army. (Fitted with micro target adjustable sights, $20 extra.) GRIPS: Tenite Stag FINISH: Bright blue, case hardening colors on frame FRAME: .45 Caliber



.22 REVOLVER $84.50

BARREL: 5½" WEIGHT: 48 oz. SIGHTS: Fixed standard single action Army. (Fitted with micro target adjustable sights, $20 extra.) GRIPS: Tenite Stag FRAME: .45 Caliber



.45 COLT SHERIFF'S MODEL $97.50

BARREL: 3", 3½", 4", 5½", 7½" LENGTH OVER ALL: 8⅛" with 3½" barrel WEIGHT: SIGHTS: Fixed standard single action Army. (Fitted with micro target adjustable sights, $20 extra.) GRIPS: Tenite Stag FINISH: Bright blue, case hardening colors on frame FRAME: .45 Caliber

All Great Western Frontier Sixshooters are unconditionally guaranteed for 1 year against defects in workmanship and material.

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50c post paid

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NINE DIFFERENT SECRET POLICE AUTOMATICS!

If all the characters who ever owned these guns got together there would be as much hootin' and shootin' as a small war. How did I get 'em? That old U. S. wampum works every time. And you'll never see these guns this cheap again. I'm offering a deal. Buy three or more and take 5% off the total.

1. GALESI .25 CAL. AUTO — Brand new Italian gun. This is how they have been saying hello in Trieste.....$29.95

2. SAUER .32 CAL. AUTO — Rare double-action model specially desired by Nazi officers $22.50

3. SPANISH EIBAR .32 CAL AUTO — The beautifully made Falangist favorite $17.50

4. ORTGIES .32 CAL. AUTO — Pre-war German, clean lines. Lots fell into hands of anti-Nazi underground.....$19.95

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6. LE BASQUE .32 CAL. AUTO — These saw a lot of close quarter, violent action high in the Pyrenees Mountains of Spain during the Spanish Civil War. Good condition $18.50

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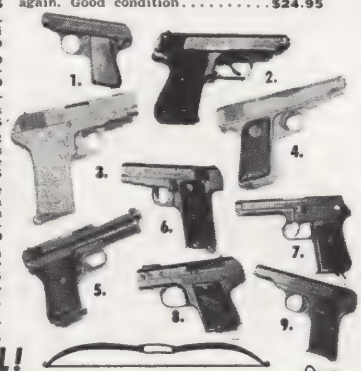
8. BAYARD .32 AUTO — Only the size of a .25, this is world's smallest .32 automatic pistol. A real "find" for collectors. This German-made gun was a favorite of the Gestapo. Good condition.....$24.95

9. BROWNING .32 AUTOMATIC — You've always wanted a Browning. Here's your chance. You won't see them at this price again. Good condition.....$24.95



BOW HUNTERS SPECIAL!

FAMOUS FIBERGLAS LONG BOW, finest in America, 5'6". may want pull you want from 25 to 70 pounds. Beautiful finish, practically indestructible. Don't buy that 70-pound model for the little woman. $38.50 each, complete. Six 28" HUNTING ARROWS, $7.00 — Eight 28" TARGET ARROWS, $5.75.

COWHIDE HUNTING QUIVER Shoulder style. $4.75

REINFORCED SHOOTING GLOVE — Specify your glove size or send tracing of your hand. Specify right or left hand. $2.75 each.

EXTRA STRINGS (You get one with the bow) — $1.50 each

BRITISH JUNGLE HELMET — This is the authentic imported article, selling for $12.50 in larger U.S. cities. Used by British troops in Africa, India. I made a big deal on these. Terrific for summer fishing, hunting, outdoor work. Send your hat size and $4.95

LITTLE ATOM PISTOL

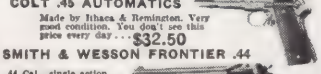
It's as small as the end of your thumb but it "sounds off" like that package they dropped on Hiroshima. The world's "shoniest" small pistol — gold plated with pearl grip. Complete with ramrod and a capsule of blanks. $2.95

COLT NEW SERVICE

.357 Magnum, 6" Bbl. The world's most powerful handgun. When this one talks there's thunder in the hills. Excellent condition $59.50

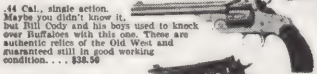
COLT .45 AUTOMATICS

Made by Ithaca & Remington. Very good condition. You don't see this price every day.... $32.50



SMITH & WESSON FRONTIER .44

.44 Cal., single action. Maybe you didn't know it, but Bill Cody and his boys used to knock over Buffaloes with this one. These are authentic relics of the Old West and guaranteed still in good working condition.... $38.50



WEBLEY Military

Revolver, .455 Cal., the famous British Service revolver. Good condition.....$12.50

WEBLEY R.I.C. REVOLVER — .455 cal. This short barreled model was long used by the Royal Irish Constabulary and has a grim record as a man stopper at close quarters. Beautiful shooting piece.$18.50

WEBLEY-GREEN .455 CAL. 6-inch barrel. Will take a .45 Colt shell. A special gun, non-issue. Carried by high-ranking British officers $18.95

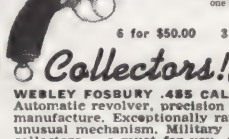
WEBLEY MK VI .455 CAL. This is the big Webley with the 6-inch barrel. The last .455 caliber gun ever used by British Empire forces $17.50

6-INCH BARREL S&W .38 REVOLVERS — S&W .38 caliber Military and Police model. 6-inch barrel, bright blue finish. I made a fantastic purchase on these beautiful revolvers. They are in like-brand-new condition. This is the gun preferred by most U.S. police departments $37.50

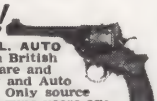
EUROPEAN COLLECTOR'S SPECIAL

Special purchase of antique European military revolvers in rare and unusual calibers. Each one from a different country. Fair condition

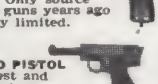
6 for $50.00 3 for $28.50



Collectors!

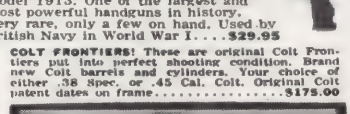


WEBLEY FOSBURY .455 CAL. AUTO Automatic revolver, precision British manufacture. Exceptionally rare and unusual mechanism. Military and Auto collectors — a must for you. Only source in U.S. Stoeger offered these guns years ago for $75 each. Now, extremely limited. Special price....$49.95



WEBLEY & SCOTT .455 AUTO PISTOL Model 1913. One of the largest and most powerful handguns in history. Very rare, only a few on hand. Used by British Navy in World War I.....$29.95

COLT FRONTIERS! These are original Colt Frontiers put into perfect shooting condition. Brand new Colt barrels and cylinders. Your choice of either .38 Spec. or .45 Cal. Colt. Original Colt patent dates on frame.....$175.00



BEEN SPINNING YET?

I never caught so many fish since I took it up. Here's an outfit I personally recommend and will stand behind because I snaked out a string of grandaddy fish with it. You go price all these items and you'll find they cost you $41.00 not counting your time. I made a big volume deal — it's yours complete for $29.95. (If you don't catch enough fish send all back for refund, how's that.) 1 — 2-piece glass spinning rod, 1 — of those terrific new all nylon spinning reels (can't rust), 2 spools monofilament, 1 each stringer, pack of split shot, Pflueger Handi Pak, pack of snaps and swivels, 2 each 0/1 spinners, line clips, 1 each Pussy Hawk spinner, Hawk spinning lure, beaded spinner, Little Flippy, 1¾ spoon, Streamer lure, bubble float, good size bait box, rod bag. (That's a regular $20.00 rod and regular $13.50 reel. Pretty good deal, huh?)

AMERICAN COLLECTORS SPECIAL!

JUST PURCHASED!

Just purchased a large group of Early American pistols and revolvers. Such names as Baby Hammerless, Harrington & Richardson, Hopkins and Allen, Forehand, Aetna, Whitney, Iver Johnson, Defender, Stevens Smoker, Moore, etc., etc., hundreds and hundreds of the little beauties. No special choice but I'll pick out good ones for you, all different. Two for $17.00. Three for $23.00. Five for $38.00.

BAYONETS For many years now I've been sending out all over the world to find these. Now I've got almost every kind ever made. I'll send you three different kinds for just $10....10 DIFFERENT KINDS FOR ONLY $25.00

WHEN YOU COME TO CALIFORNIA VISIT MY MAMMOTH GUNS STORE IN BURBANK RIGHT NEAR LOS ANGELES. 20,000 GUNS ON DISPLAY

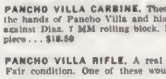
COLT NO. 3 DERRINGERS!

One of the most highly prized collector's pieces ever offered. Unbelievable as it may seem I stumbled on a whole cache of them. They're all in good condition. 41 Cal., some blue finish, some nickel. Here's a price to rattle your uppers! $40.95

RUSSIAN NAGANT REVOLVER. Still used by Russian officers. Those we have were captured by the Nazis at Stalingrad and elsewhere. Later were lifted off the Nazis and still later horse traded by Hy Hunter. Good condition ... $29.50

PANCHO VILLA CARBINE. These guns crackled with conquest in the hands of Pancho Villa and his raiders in the Mexican uprisings against Diaz. 7 MM rolling block. Fair condition. A great collector's piece ... $18.50

PANCHO VILLA RIFLE. A real powerhouse. 7 MM rolling block. Fair condition. One of these would look great over your fireplace $14.50



MODEL 98 MAUSER ACTION

Here's the standard long action that is used to build sporting rifles in the following calibers: 30-06 Springfield, .270 Winchester, .300 Savage, .308 Winchester, 7 MM Mauser and many other popular calibers. With this complete action, all you need is a chambered barrel in the caliber you desire and a good stock to assemble your own custom sporter.

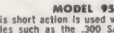
Send 50c for each action ordered to cover postage. $14.95

MODEL 95 MAUSER ACTIONS

This short action is used with great success in building sporting rifles such as the .300 Savage, 7 MM Mauser, .35 Remington, .308 Winchester, .257 Roberts and a host of other Varminter calibers. Get yourself a good stock and a chambered barrel in your favorite caliber and you're all set.

Send 50c for each action ordered to cover postage. $13.95

S. & W. TYPE SPANISH — breaktop .455 Cal. Good condition. Here's a powerful shooter you don't see in many collections. We stole these.....$9.95



DEN SPECIAL LONG GUNS—I just corraled 5,000 guns from all over the world, representing darn near every country you ever heard of. While they last, I'll ship you . . . 1 for $12.50, 2 for $20, 3 for $25. (No two alike.)

FRENCH LEBEL REVOLVER, 8MM. Unique mechanism, side plate opens for inspection of mechanism built like a fine watch. Used by French against Communists in Indo-China. Good condition .$14.95

VERY EARLY LEBEL, 11MM. Very early French military sidearm (1873-74). An extremely rare collector's item. These guns were used in the Franco-Prussian War (black powder).....$12.95

HOW TO ORDER GUNS

Send money order or check made payable to Hy Hunter. If you want something sent C.O.D. send a deposit of 1/3. EASY PAYMENT PLAN: Select the type of gun or merchandise of your choice today and pay for it in full later! Just send 10% of total price on any purchase and we will immediately open an account in your name. As long as one year to pay and no carrying charges. You may pay as much as or as little as you wish each month. When your account is paid in full we will then select your gun or other merchandise from our huge stock and ship immediately.

PLEASE ENCLOSE WITH GUN ORDERS

I hereby state that I am a citizen of the United States and that I have never been convicted in any court of the United States, the several states, territories, possessions or the District of Columbia of a crime of violence, nor am I at present under indictment or a fugitive from justice.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____ AGE _____

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Pasadena, Calif.

WINCHESTER'S LEVER LIGHTNING

(Continued from page 25)

from stock. There was a consequent change in group size, the last group fired exceeding five inches for five shots, vertically, and about four inches on the horizontal.

Next day I went out determined to do some fine adjusting of the fore end screw and see what happened. On this day my partner, Herb Erfurth, did the shooting. All shots were fired from sandbag-bench rest. In the best five shot group three shots made a group 1-11/16" by ½". The two other shots opened these up to 2-13/16" high by 1-11/16" wide. Severe trigger creep was felt on two shots.

This same day we timed the gun for "rapid fire." At the "Go!" I pumped five shots from "lever open" to the last shot fired, in six seconds. With more practice, a shot a second could easily be fired, giving a "cyclic rate" of fire of between 50 and 60 shots a minute.

The design of the lever which allows you to keep your finger on the trigger was strange as it is entirely different from the familiar lever movement. It is perhaps the difference between the old hand shift and a new Hydramatic drive.

The three front bolt lugs support the cartridge solidly. One of the Model 88 receiver assemblies, screwed onto a Mann barrel in a machine rest, should keep the shots as close as the ability of the ammunition to group. The gun is inherently a bolt action gun, fast with the lever, and potentially accurate. The practical accuracy is good—yet it is not especially better than any other hunting rifle, including lever action rifles of earlier manufacture. The reason for this is the take-down design.

The stock fore end screw holds the Model 88 action and barrel into the stock. This ties into a tapered block which dovetails into the underside of the barrel. There is no conventional recoil lug on the receiver. The barrel screws into a forged, machined receiver. At the rear end of the receiver, it is bored with a true cylinder dimension, in line with the bolt cover or housing. Fastened into the stock, is a solid "standing breech."

The Model 88 has a ring-like turning extending about 1/32" from the solid breech, which fits inside of the rear end of the receiver. This solid stock block receives the blow of the rearward-moving bolt when the lever is operated. Through the lever arm, around the center of the fore end stock screw, a torque occurs. This tips the receiver up a few thousandths of an inch at the rear end, and changes the stress relationships between fore arm and barrel at the stock screw. By grasping hold of the scope tube, and pulling slightly, this movement was very perceptible. The more times the barrel and action is removed from the stock, causing wear on these non-hardened surfaces, and the longer the rifle is shot with full-load ammunition, the more wear will occur at this point and the looser it will get.

This looseness will never progress much beyond a "wiggle," but it will affect accuracy and the grouping ability of an otherwise fine rifle. The correction of this design is simple. The action must be made tight at the rear in the stock, just like a bolt-type action, to achieve reliable bolt-action accuracy. A home gunsmith could easily cut a flat on the rear radius, and fit a steel block screwed to both receiver and stock block at once. This would make takedown difficult, but the purpose of a "one screw" takedown seems obscure to me.

The gun is not a "takedown model." If Winchester changes the "takedown" to a non-takedown variety, with a solid receiver tang screwing securely to the stock, the accuracy should increase. If not, they still have a rifle to be proud of—a damn fine lever gun built on modern principles of strength, smoothness, and safety. ◉

NOW!- - - LOAD ANY TUBULAR .22 RIFLE IN SECONDS WITH THE DAVIS CARTRIDGE DISPENSER

No more fumbling for shells.
- In cold weather, load gun with gloves on.
- Simple to use. No instructions needed, pictures show how.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Set of 5 loaders in genuine leather case $6.00

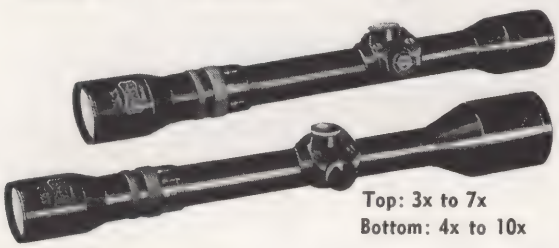
Loaders made of rust-proof aluminum tubes for lightweight and years of service . . . each tube holds 10 long rifle cartridges or 12 longs or 15 shorts.

Shipped Postage Paid — No C.O.D.'s

Set of 5 loaders in weatherproof plasti-calf case $5.00

DAVIS DISPENSER CO.
3915 Riverside Dr. Chino, California

PECAR / BERLIN Vari-Powered Scopes



Top: 3x to 7x
Bottom: 4x to 10x

Two new great scopes to give the American shooters the finest in German optics and workmanship.
The only vari-powered scopes in which it is possible for the shooter to have the correct size reticle for the power desired.
Nils O. Hultgren, Los Angeles, custom stockmaker: "The Pecar is a fine scope, my customers are real gun nuts and in my sample scopes I have a Pecar Scope. Their choice is usually the Pecar."

Other Pecar Scopes
2¾ x 64.....52.00
4 x 81.....58.00
6 x 59.....60.00
8 x 43.....85.00

Pecar Vari-Powered Scopes
3x to 7x... 95.00
4x to 10x...100.00

Authorized Jobber Inquiries Invited

Pecar/Berlin binoculars will soon be ready for delivery.
Ask your dealer to show you the Pecar Scope. Free Literature.

Charles W. Leavell Sumter, South Carolina

THE SAD TRUTH ABOUT THE 9 MM. LOAD

(Continued from page 13)

the depth of the punched-out depression and based on numerous trials came up with a good, solid rating figure. Firing was at the customary 15 feet. Order of merit reads thusly:

1. 357 Magnum
2. 30 Mauser
3. 45 ACP
4. 38 Super Colt
5. 38 Special
6. 9 mm Luger

Finding a supply of cement building blocks near my shooting grounds, I next tried these. I found on weighing a half-dozen of these targets that the average weight was 36 pounds for the webbed block, 16"x8½"x8½". Tests produced this data in order of rating:

38 Super Colt. Clean penetration from end to end of block. Better than either the 357 or 45 ACP!

357 Magnum. Penetration. Considerable flaking off inside webbing. Not as spectacular or marked as 38 Super.

45 ACP. Did not completely penetrate the length of block but flaked off inside webbing very strongly.

38 Special. No penetration to length of block but flaked off inside webbing.

9 mm Luger. Did not penetrate entire length of block. Little flaking within webbing. Unimpressive.

30 Mauser. No penetration. Poorest showing of all weapons.

I strapped four blocks of paraffin together, each chunk with a weight of half-pound, giving me a target which weighed two pounds, and presenting a mark which had great depth but little forward surface. Order of merit on these tests were:

1. 45 ACP.
2. 357
3. 38 Super
4. 38 Spl
5. 9 mm
6. 30 Mauser

Eager to evolve some kind of a test which would give me an understanding of the disruptive effect of the various bullets, and get away from solely studying penetration, I gathered up a hundred empty paint cans, square in contour, and with tightly fitting caps. These cans I filled with water.

The 357 Magnum won this round by a head-and-shoulders margin! The 158 grain bullet, whipping along at 1450 feet per second, simply compressed that water and when pressures rose so high the flimsy seams would not hold anymore, the can burst like a stick of dynamite was tucked inside. It was spectacular, believe me! Despite the fact that all the manufacturers have drawn the teeth of the good old 357 Maggie, reducing velocities from the 1525-1600 feet seconds we enjoyed before World War II, the Doug Wesson dream child has still got a lot of oomph.

Second money was claimed by the 45 ACP. The big gun, according to my notes, was only shaded by the 357. Every seam was opened and the can was a mis-shapen hunk of tin. Very impressive! Third place went to the 38 Special; fourth to the 38 Super; fifth showing was claimed by the 30 Mauser. And this is what I had to say about the 9 mm—"Sides of can distorted, no seams opened. Very ordinary. Highly unimpressive in tin can testing."

I very carefully filled a long series of paper sacks of peck size with 10 weighed pounds of sand. These sacks I hung by the twisted end of the bag so that pressure in each was more or less equal. I then fired at each from a distance of 15 feet. The test actually was a great deal like the firing done on the gallon tins of water. The back side of the sack was the point where I expected to gather more data. The final analysis of this firing showed:

357 Magnum. Completely destroyed back side of sack. Impressive!

45 ACP. Great damage to sack, very slightly less than 357. Impressive.

38 Super Colt. Penetrated sand, tore out back of sack. Slightly more damage than 9 mm, but less than 357 or 45 ACP.

9 mm. Small damage to sack. Unimpressive.

30 Mauser. Damage much like 38 Super and 9 mm.

38 Special. Did not penetrate sack of sand. Subsequent trials sometimes produced penetration, other times did not. Erratic.

My firing was concluded. Based on a very simple evaluation system, I totaled up the firsts, seconds, thirds won by each gun during the testing and learned, not at all to my surprise, that the 357 Magnum was a hands-down first placer. It had a score of 12. The 45 ACP was in second money with a total of 20; the 38 Super was every bit as good as the 45 insofar as cold figures go, with another score of 20. The 38 Special was much poorer with 35. The 9 mm and the 30 Mauser each wound up in a tie for hind teat with 38 point each. ◉

Revolutionary New Principle!

CO_2 HY HUNTER'S AMERICAN LUGER

First Time Offered!

$29.95

No permit or license required

LIQUID GAS OPERATED
NEW HIGH VELOCITY
9-SHOT REPEATER
.22 CALIBER
FIRES STANDARD
.22 CALIBER BALL SHOT

"I now have my first shipment of American Lugers out back, ready to ship. This powerful shooting gun has been in the works for almost 10 years. It is perfect and is better than anything you have ever seen! Listen to this. It is a beautiful reproduction of the old German Luger (which I always thought should be remanufactured) in looks, weight, point and its genuine dark gun blue, European style. **Its trigger pull is crisp and sharp.** The first true-powderless repeater ever known or made in the history of ballistics. You can take this gun out and shoot varmints and any small game! (Don't shoot bear with **any** handgun unless you're wearing roller skates.) I took three shots to get a jack out on the desert with this gun and I'm not bragging on my shooting about that. But with any other powderless gun, besides the American Luger, you take just one shot and then you fish around through your small change for the next round.

"This gun uses (all) standard CO_2 cartridges (both sizes) **with an entirely new principle.** The tremendous metered charge of **liquid** gas goes straight from the cylinder to the actual firing chamber. There is no storage chamber in the middle to dissipate that full power. When you shoot the American Luger you'll see what I mean. The cylinder goes in the butt where the Luger clip normally goes. The charge is uniform, you can shoot a perfect group with this gun. When the last **full** charge is fired, **the residue drains off automatically.** You get between 20 and 30 full power charges or about three 9-shot magazine loads from one cylinder No coin or screwdriver is needed to load the gas chamber.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

"On this introductory offer I will include a free American Luger extra-high power cylinder and 200 rounds of ammunition. You can buy more ammunition from me at $1 per 200 rounds postpaid or you can get it at any sporting goods store."

HOW TO ORDER: Send check, cash or money order for $29.95. Shipped express collect. For C.O.D. enclose $10.00 deposit. Dealers inquire. Calif. resid. add 4% state tax.

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Every American Luger has a guarantee against defects in workmanship and materials. Hy Hunter's regular 15-day guarantee also applied: "If you don't like it after you've tried it, send it back and the store will refund all your money pronto."

EASY PAYMENT PLAN

Send $5.00 in today and I will reserve one of these beautiful guns in your name. Send the balance anytime within one year (no interest charged) and I will pick a good one out for you and see to it that you get it pronto.

20,000 GUNS TO BE SOLD, the world's greatest collection, all must go. Remingtons, Winchesters, Sharps, Derringers, Colts, antique and used modern. Send for my BIG PHOTO CATALOG with prices and photographs of thousands. $2.00 POSTPAID. I am also now selling brand new Great Western Frontier Sixshooters. Send for Hy Hunter's big New Frontier Sixshooter Catalog #4, 50c postpaid.

CUSTER'S LAST MAN

(Continued from page 37)

too weak to reply, rode nearer and then blacking out fell entirely from his horse.

He awoke inside the hut. The man who had been splitting wood now offered him a bowl of broth. A thin, hawk-faced man lay on a bed of boughs and blankets across the room. Obviously the boss, the thin man ordered the other to tend to Finkel's wounds. The woodchopper put down the bowl. "This ain't no hospital fer troopers. I got my hands full takin' care o' you." The thin man's voice was low and flat. "This is my hut, Bill. I give the orders here and anywhere else as long as I'm alive."

The two men stared into each other's faces. Then Bill's gaze faltered, and shrugging, he turned back to Finkel. "I kin close this hole in his side," he grunted, "but I can't do nothin' with the foot but cut it off." Bill rose, picked up his axe, and began sharpening it. The methodical strokes of the stone brought Finkel alert.

"No," he screamed, struggling to rise from his pallet on the dirt floor. "No! No! By God, if I'm going to die, I'll do it with everything I've got."

"Do you want to die, soldier?" the thin man queried, his voice cutting through Finkel's ravings. "That foot's rotten. It's got to come off. Better a life with no leg than no life at all."

The young trooper raised himself on his elbows. "Rotten or not, it's my foot. It's my life." The thin man nodded agreement. "All right, it's your foot. I don't give a damn if you live or die," cried Bill, shaking young Finkel's shoulder, "but I ain't going to have your rotten carcass stinkin' up this place."

He lunged across to the fire, and returned with the kettle. The boy's thin body stiffened under the blanket, his foot exposed, black and swollen. For a long moment he looked into Bill's heavy, expressionless face. His fists clenched the blanket, his jaws tightened. Then he jerked and screamed in pain, as Bill tilted the kettle and molten pitch pine streamed downward on his foot.

In the days that followed, Finkel was vaguely aware of someone tending his wounds. He caught fragments of talk between the two men, when they thought him asleep—talk about wagon trains, guns for Indians, ammunition. Sun was blazing through the doorway of the hut one morning when Finkel awoke, to find the pain in his foot almost gone. Wonderingly he wiggled the toes, moved the foot on his ankle, then grinned weakly. Across the room Bill had just stood up, by the sick man's bunk. He pulled the blanket over the thin, still face and turned to Finkel. "I'll be digging a grave," he said. "You can leave at any time. Horse is outside."

Finkel asked to help: "Guess I wouldn't be alive if it wasn't for you and him."

"That ain't nothin' to me," Bill snapped, "I did it on his orders. He thought he owed you troopers something after . . ." His voice trailed to a whisper. Than he cried "Get outa here. I don't need no help."

"Let me do it for him, then," Finkel pleaded. "After all, I owe him for my life." Bill grinned, evilly. "There's some that owes him for their deaths, too," he said, looking at the dead man. "All right, shovel's outside."

Behind the hut the trooper leaned on his shovel by the new mound of earth, panting from exertion. "Who was he, Bill?" Finkel asked, "Seems like we ought to put a marker over him."

Bill threw down his shovel and with clenched fists stepped over to the boy. "We don't have no names around here. If you don't *git*, there's going to be another grave alongside this." His fist lashed out, catching Finkel off guard, knocking him to the ground. "Fort Benton's that way," Bill said, and turned to the hut.

Early frost was coloring the landscape to gold when Finkel, gaunt and weak after long days and nights of travelling, living off small game, rode into the bustling trader's town at the bend of the Missouri in northern Montana. He encountered a soldier on Front Street, who took him to the commanding officer. With an attempt at military briskness, he saluted: "Sergeant Frank August Finkel reporting, sir, from General Custer's 7th Cavalry, Company C."

"What was that?" the officer snapped, his eyes narrowing intently. Finkel repeated his identification. "You're either lying or you're a deserter from before the fight. Custer's men were killed with him. No one escaped."

Patiently Finkel told his story, of long months of illness, of riding across trackless wastes, most at night, to avoid capture, of one man travelling the hundreds of unknown miles between the Little Big Horn and Fort Benton . . . many months had passed since

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the wires flashed the message of Custer's defeat. Greater disbelief spread over the officer's face.

"You will remain here until witnesses can be found to vouch for this. Orderly, take this man to the barracks."

While Finkel wondered where he would be able to find two witnesses who knew him as a sergeant in the 7th Cavalry, the orderly leading him along the street talked about the beauties of the dusty, crowded boom town. But Finkel, seemingly drugged with fatigue, managed to soak up one important piece of information from the stifling dust their boots kicked up. Captain Tim Burleigh of the river steamer Carroll told the orderly that his ship was loading to go downstream in the morning. As the orderly put Finkel into a small wareroom which served as "guardhouse," Finkel's plan to escape was already forming.

Finkel realized that his story would not be believed without witnesses. There was no reason then for him to continue to press his argument that he was really in the Cavalry; the sooner he left Fort Benton, the less chance he had to be declared a deserter and put into a military prison for a few years. And quite obviously Fort Benton's commander didn't like his looks.

No one paid any attention to Finkel as he lifted himself to the ledge of the storehouse window. He sat there for a time, apparently in idle curiosity . . . but when the orderly came in the morning with some breakfast, Finkel had gone.

At sunrise the Carroll eased into midstream and nosed downriver toward St. Louis. Piled high on her decks were hides and bundles of furs. Heavy canvas sacks, lined against cabin walls, contained a part of the tons of high grade Montana gold ore, sent downriver to the smelters. Provided with hardtack which he had taken from the barracks storehouse, Finkel hid in relative comfort in a hollow space between two bales of hides on deck, and managed to steal drinks of water from the riverboat's water barrel at dark.

One morning he was awakened in his cramped space by the grinding lurch of the Carroll as the flat-keeled ship drove onto a sandbar which the treacherous river had built up in the channel. The grounded Carroll was equipped with long spars on each side, "grasshoppering bars," which could be used to lever the boat over shallows. As the deck hands strained at the ropes and the donkey engine chugged, working the grasshopper bars, Finkel watched attentively from his hideaway.

Suddenly, from the deck, he spied a line of horsemen on the crest of the bluffs overlooking the Carroll. "Indians," he shouted, forgetting his own unexplained presence. Captain Burleigh stood near, directing the grasshopper gang. He whirled, startled, to face Finkel. A glance of recognition flashed over his face as he gave the orders:

"Get to the Texas deck," Burleigh bellowed at the passengers who were beginning to fire at the Indians. "Hold those varmints back from the bluff till we get her off this bar." Finkel ran with the others to the upper deck. Long into the sultry afternoon the passengers exchanged shot for shot with the Indians on the bluff.

Beneath their covering fire, the crew strained and sweated, aiding the powered capstan which wound the ropes that levered one end of the grasshopper bars. The paddle wheel churned sandy water, and the boat inched forward until at last she lurched over the bar and into deeper water. A yell went up from the Texas deck and the Indians, seeing the craft was free, gave up the fight.

"Bring that stowaway down here," the Captain called, "and open up a keg. Tim Burleigh's buyin' the drinks all around." The puffing, red-faced captain looked Finkel up and down. "If them Indians had attacked earlier, you might have been a hero sooner. As is, I'll sign you on for the rest of the trip, no questions asked. Just do your work."

Finkel stared. Then he did a strange thing, something he hadn't done in months. He smiled.

Many years passed since Sergeant Finkel, technically a deserter from the U.S. Cavalry, rejoined civilization and an ordinary way of life. He eventually became a wheat rancher, and when talk veered round to the Custer fight, Frank Finkel learned to be silent. He had narrowly escaped jail once, and now scoffers would point to the official records, the Reno Court of Inquiry, and other sources which made Finkel's protestations cease.

Then in 1921 under the urging of his wife, Finkel told his story before a skeptical audience of the Kiwanis Club of Dayton, Washington. The settled west was full of professional "westerners" for years after the last Injun was driven onto the reservation, and Finkel's story kicked up dust on both sides of the trail.

While Custer and the men who died with him became legends, the 7th Cavalry continued. Even more persistent than the belief that Custer's command was wiped out is the notion that the 7th Cavalry was entirely massacred. As recently as April 19, 1955, flowing-bearded 91-year-old Ed Ryan appeared in Chicago for a visit and identified himself as a member of the 7th Cavalry. His Army name of George Ryan is listed on the battleground monument. His story is that Custer told him to remain behind to care for a sick friend. Ryan's answer nowadays, when asked why he didn't rejoin his command, is: "Gen. Custer's last orders to me were to rejoin the regiment. That would be pretty hard, considering it was wiped out by the Sioux."

For a regiment supposedly wiped out, the 7th Cavalry was pretty active. In 1867 it was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, the main Cavalry post and remount station. In the 1890's it was stationed at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, thirty miles north of Chicago. The unit was doomed, however, by gasoline. In 1940, while our troops were on maneuvers with pick-up trucks painted "TANK" and broomsticks for BAR's, the 7th became the Seventh Mechanized Cavalry Brigade. In 1942 the Cavalry was discontinued, and personnel of the historic fighting troops were reassigned to other organizations. Not the Sioux nor the Cheyenne, but the gasoline-powered wheels of progress, finally completed the massacre of Custer's 7th Cavalry. ◉

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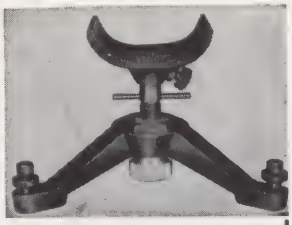

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WHY GUNS BLOW UP

(Continued from page 33)

Any delay such as this in getting the shot moving will boost the breech pressure way over the safe limits. Most good guns will stand this abuse, though will loosen up quickly if continued. An old damascus-barreled gun or one in poor condition will often blow up under the strain.

Sooner or later most every shooter will get some kind of an obstruction lodged in the barrel of his gun. The usual thing is an oversized cleaning patch or a bullet. The quickest way to get into trouble is to try to shoot it out with a live round. The least that can be expected is a bulged barrel where the obstruction was jammed. In some cases especially with high powered rifles and shotguns, the barrel will completely blow up.

The proper method is to drive out the obstruction with a flat ended steel rod that will just fit into the bore. The closer to bore size the rod is, the better. A brass or aluminum rod, especially if of a too small diameter, will twist and spring when driven in the barrel and usually is more trouble to remove after jamming in place than the original obstruction.

A good soaking with penetrating oil will often help loosen obstructions so they will be easier to remove. In the field where a proper rod is not available, it is sometimes possible to clear out a single obstruction such as a bullet or cleaning patch by using a cartridge with the bullet removed and half the powder poured out. This is definitely not recommended when there are pieces of twigs or wire and such in the bore from previous attempts to remove the obstruction.

A shell is not always correct for the gun if it will go into the chamber without forcing. The only true multi-caliber shell was cooked up by Hollywood propmen. It is a blank called the "5 in 1" designed to shoot in 38-40, 44-40, 45 Colt pistols and 38-40, 44-40 rifles used so often in "horse operas".

Substitution of incorrect shells in guns is a sure way to end up in trouble.

In one fine Weatherby magnum, firing a 30-06 shell split the case and almost completely blew off its head. The gas released by the unsupported case blew off the extractor and magazine floor plate, and split the stock up the forend and along the magazine walls. The modern F. N. Mauser action was not damaged to any great extent.

In most instances, this shell would not have fired in this gun, but this time the rim of the shell happened to catch under the extractor and was held back against the bolt face so that the firing pin could reach the primer.

Other common cartridges can be fired in the "wrong" chamber or caliber gun, creating anything from a mild whiff of gas out the back to an actual bursting of the gun, with hot smoke flashing everywhere and wood splinters in the shooter's arm—if indeed the bolt doesn't go back through his face or kill him. The rimmed .32-40 can be fired in the .30/40 Krag. The long tapered .32-40 case will split and release gas into the action, unpleasant if nothing more.

I have removed a jammed .33 WCF shell from a Marlin 38-56 chamber, which was wedged in so tightly that a section of the rim was torn off trying to pry it out. It was eventually punched out from the muzzle with a rod. Fortunately, the bolt could not be closed on it, or there would have been a real mess.

A few years ago perhaps the most common offender was the 8mm Mauser round fired in the .30-06 chamber. The two cartridges look very much alike, and it is difficult to say, without direct comparison or measuring, whether "this one is the 30-06 or the 8mm." The 8mm case is a little shorter than the .30-06, so it will sometimes chamber in .30 caliber guns. But the 8mm bullet is about .015" larger than the .30, which runs pressures up too high if accidentally fired in the smaller bore.

While only four Springfields, listed in blown-up gun reports between 1917 and 1929, could be directly attributed to the firing of the 8mm Mauser instead of the .30-06, Winchester experienced more than enough trou-

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bles with this caliber confusion. One of the reasons for the discontinuance of the popular Model 1895 lever rifle in .30-06 caliber was the hazard of blow-ups using 8mm ammunition. Some modern rifles will take one or two 8mm bullets in their .30-06 bores, but pressures developed are well up around 100,000 pounds per square inch...double the maximum normal pressures for the strongest rifles. In this same category is the trick of chewing out the chamber of a worn 30-30 to take the .32 special round, so as to "improve accuracy." The .32 special bullet is also about .015" bigger than the bore—a real tight squeeze!

War souvenir guns are a constant threat. These guns should all be carefully checked before use by a competent gunsmith, not by the ex-GI who lives down the block. The average Mauser rifle picked up from piles of captured weapons had the bolt stripped out to de-activate it. With bolts in one pile and rifles in another, it was a very rare instance when the proper parts were reunited. Juggled bolts have always been a source of danger due to headspace problems which will result in stretched cases and blown primers.

Most guns made late in the war should be suspected anyway. In the last couple of years of the war in Europe, the German high command issued orders that proof testing of small arms was to be stopped. The reason: too many *new* guns were blowing up. Guns made in 1942 and earlier were as a rule of good quality though.

The Germans and Japanese were not above a bit of sabotage anyway if they thought they could dispose of a few GIs or if they thought they were soon to be captured. P-38 pistols have been brought back minus their locking blocks. Such a pistol looks and handles normally till fired, then things start coming apart. The locking block is attached to the underside of the barrel, but is readily removed. It is easily identified by the plain caseharden finish.

While headspace problems in rifles usually lead to dangerous flashback, and also to probable blowing up of the gun, one type of action turned out by Remington a number of years back seems to have an unusual strength record. Of course, this is not to claim that these Remingtons, the "rolling block" model, cannot be blown up, but they are very strong.

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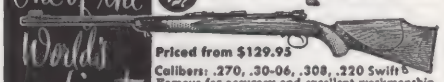

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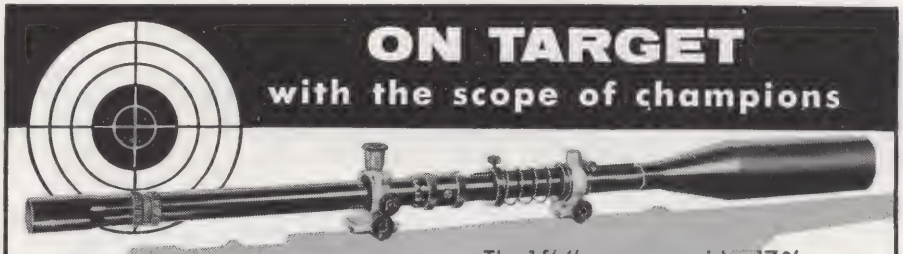

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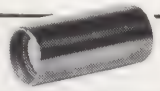

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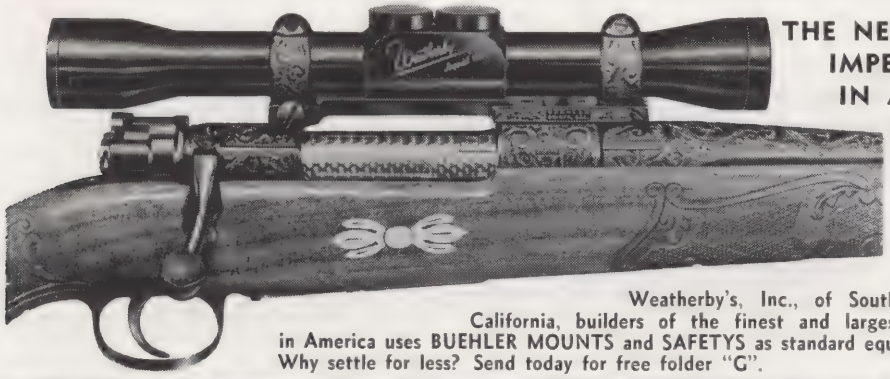

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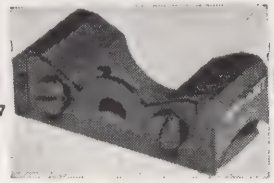
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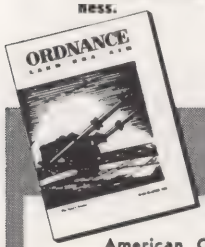

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short while ago came to my attention. It had passed through several dealers' hands without a shot being fired. Then it was bought by an old timer who had a fondness for the Remington action design. He sawed off the barrel, sporterized the stock, and did a home job of "rebuilding." Then, he tried to fire it with Mexican 7mm ammo. The gun stuck tight and refused to open.

He sent it to Remington. They removed the fired case, and apologized for not being able to do anything for him, as they had discontinued that model (the 1902) years ago and had no parts.

Examination of the chamber of the gun showed that it was enlarged to the degree that the 7mm shell could be inserted a quarter of an inch, base first, with a ring bulge which could be seen just inside the chamber when the block was open. When this gun was fired with the Mexican 1938 ammo, smoke poured out from the forearm like a smouldering bonfire. The excess length of the chamber, and the brittle old brass, had combined to produce a case head separation. Gas leaked around the barrel from the extractor cut, and evacuated between barrel and forearm.

But no damage was done at all. The breech opened a little stiffly, but it was initially stiff, anyway. About twenty subsequent shots, all Mexican 1938 7mm stuff, were fired with no trouble. Five out of ten cases showed a crack or partial case head separation, while all cases showed severe stretch marks near the bases. All shots were fired holding the cut-down rifle at arms length like a long-stock pistol. Surprisingly, fair accuracy at 50 yards was obtained, several aimed shots striking a 1′ square board half way down the 100-yard rifle range. But nothing would have persuaded me to put that Remington to my shoulder with my eyes in line with all that backflash.

Pressures in revolvers or pistols are usually much lower than those in rifles. Cartridges used are frequently weak, perhaps damaged by excess oil or moisture, and sometimes may not have force enough to drive the bullet out of the barrel. And other than because of defective ammunition, revolvers often have a bullet lodge in the barrel due to rough or leaded bore and an oversize gap between the cylinder and barrel. Any of these causes combined with a weak load can result in the bullet not leaving the muzzle. If a second shot is fired with the first bullet in the bore, a bulged barrel results. Smith & Wesson's shooting chart shows a barrel bulged but completely full of bullets, one behind the other. Sometimes shooters have been known to load the cylinder again, and only then discover "something wrong."

A good policy for any shooter is to check the bore of his gun if the shot cannot be called on the target. This can save the ruining of a barrel or gun and possible injury to himself or bystanders.

In the last few years there has developed what is known as the "Single Action Colt craze." These guns were obsolete for years, but people are willing to pay prices for them that would make Colonel Colt turn over in his grave. In their prime, these guns were as necessary as a horse to ranchers in the West but on the average received considerably less care. Consequently most of the unaltered single-actions floating around are far from being in top condition. And yet today handloaders happily load these old veterans designed in the '70s with hot 357's and 44 Specials that are considered borderline in modern revolvers.

Things to check are the trigger, hammer notches, locking bolt, recoil plate and cylinder gap. The sear end of the trigger is a very thin unsupported section that wears easily and often breaks off if some "drug store cowboy" trys his hand at fanning the hammer. If the sear is worn or broken, it allows the firing pin to rest on the primer of a shell even in the safety notch. It takes a surprisingly light blow to fire the gun in a case like this.

A worn bolt in conjunction with an oversize cylinder gap can shave off considerable lead from the bullet and throw it off to one side endangering the eyes of anyone near.

The papers every day carry notices headed "Boy, 7, shoots playmate, 8" and the story talks about the shooting "accident." Many of these cases are no more accidental than leaving a shell in the chamber and pointing it at someone as the trigger is pulled. Common .22 autoloading rifles are chronic offenders in these cases. Even operating the mechanism to eject the loaded cartridges from the magazine will not always empty the gun safely. Dirt and grease under the extractor may hold it so that the last round is not popped out of the gun. Then, a supposedly "unloaded" gun if handled by the kids may lead to an accident. Regular automatic pistols also may have a live cartridge left in the chamber after the clip is removed. The only sure way to unload a gun is to look into the chamber and see whether it is clear, not just rely on the extracting mechanism to do the job.

The great American pastime of adjusting trigger pulls is a fine way to get into trouble. A pull can be smoothed up or lightened but should be done by someone who knows what he is doing—not by every jackleg who offers to do the job. It is an exacting proposition for a good gunsmith to do correctly even with the best equipment. I recently saw an engraved trap grade M12 Winchester that had its trigger "adjusted." Saw what was left of it anyway. The trigger mechanism had been worked over but the guy who had accomplished this masterpiece didn't know when to stop. When the owner tried it, the hammer dropped before the breech block was securely locked. The breech block was blown halfway out of the bottom of the receiver. Everything else in the receiver was messed up. The barrel was about the only thing still useable. The owner insisted on having it repaired and paid a whopping $108.30 bill. All becauwse of an adjustment on the trigger.

This story could go on and on; it is as varied as the hundreds of gun accidents which happen every month. Each one might seem to have a different cause for it, but there is really only one basic cause—the shooter. Nobody says that you have to file on the trigger to ease it up, or forget and drop a 12 on top of a 20. All it takes is a little thought, and a little time to keep your guns in safe condition. So "12" and "20" add up to a lot more than "32"—but is it asking too much to add in that, a little common sense? ◉

WOMEN SHOOTERS

(Continued from page 18)

husband Frank's fingers at 30 paces. "I've spent one-third of my lifetime pulling the trigger on two million rifle and shotgun cartridges," Annie once told friends. She went around the world to prove a woman could be a "lady" as well as a champ with guns. "You are a very, very clever young lady," sighed Queen Victoria, while the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandria looked on.

She shot with Duke Michael of Russia, knocked ashes off of Kaiser Wilhelm II's cigaret.

At 60, in "retirement," Annie easily broke 100 clay targets in succession while instructing at Pinehurst, N. C. When she died on November 3, 1926 (and Frank 20 days later), she had shown the world the fun and companionship that awaited a man and wife who shared their guns together.

To husbands who would teach wives, Annie left this advice: a light 20-bore gun . . . light load until recoil is mastered . . . watch against womanly tendency to snuggle stock and cause overshooting, and against feminine tendency to "procrastinate" in triggering.

Annie Oakley's firearms in the early days were a Stevens single shot .22 rifle, and Winchester Models 73 and 92, .32 and .44 bore. Most of her shooting was with a shotgun—especially a couple of Parker 16-gauge, double-barrels. However, in later years, towards the end of her career, she used a 12-gauge Remington and some .22 Remington rifles. For trap ammunition, Annie recommended 20-gauge, with 2½ drams of powder, and ¾ ounce of shot.

Another husband-and-wife team was the late Mrs. Adolph "Plinky" Topperwein and her husband of San Antonio. Like Annie Oakley, Elizabeth Servaty was a teenager when she met her man. Young Winchester exhibition shooter Adolph Topperwein first saw her assembling .22 cartridges at the New Haven plant. After their marriage, Ad in typical husband-fashion decided to test a woman's ability to handle guns. He was amazed, for within a few weeks his wife was popping chalk from between his fingers with a .22. "Throw up another target and I'll plink it," she'd tease, so "Plinky" it became. For more than 40 years in a thousand American towns, Winchester featured Ad and Plinky Topperwein as the "World's Greatest Shooting Team."

"We were the first exhibition shooters employed by manufacturers to show the American public the kind of shooting that could be done with modern guns and ammunition," Ad Topperwein told me recently. "In doing this, Mrs. Topperwein shot against the best professional and amateur talent the country produced. She made many ground records, and won many tournaments. She could do more with guns than any woman, past or present."

Mrs. Topperwein was the first woman to break 100 or better straight over the trap; she did this 192 times. She was the first woman to qualify as a National Marksman with a military rifle at 200, 300 and 500 yards. For this, President Theodore Roosevelt sent her a congratulatory telegram. Another world record—still standing—for either man or woman was made in 1914 at Montgomery, Ala.: 1952 out of 2000 clay pigeons, in con-

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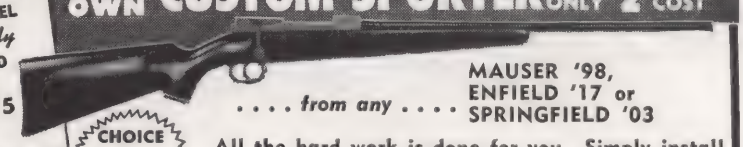

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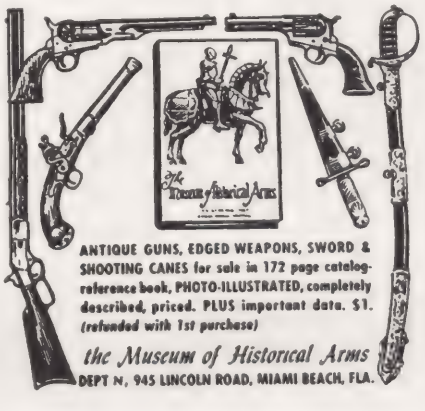

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tinuous shooting; time: five hours, 20 minutes. Her record at aerial targets with a rifle was 1995 out of a possible 2000. The previous rifle record was 944 out of 1000 by Annie Oakley.

Plinky was also skilled with the revolver. "She scored 100 out of 100 at 25 yards many times," he adds. Her timed fired record with the .38 was 497 x 500 possible points, at 25 yards.

According to Winchester, the guns Mrs. Topperwein used in all of her shooting were Winchester models of different calibers. Her pistols were both Colt's and S&W's, .38 caliber. In her record-making score on 2000 targets, she used a Model 97 shotgun—the kind she used in earlier trap shooting. Later trap records were made with a Model 12, pumpgun. In her exhibition shotgun work, she used a couple of Model 12's, 20-gauges.

In making records with the rifle—when she broke 1995 out of 2000 wooden blocks—she used a Model 63 Automatic. These records are still the greatest made by a woman.

The Topperwein story adds proof of what can happen when a husband shares his enthusiasm and knowledge of guns with his wife.

The real pioneers in gun-handling-by-women undoubtedly were the tough gals on the frontier—not the wives of professional exhibition-shots. But here the historical archives often make it hard to separate legend from fact.

Was famed "Calamity Jane" (Martha Canary Burke, 1850-1903), who always posed with a gun, a pioneer sharpshooter? A Black Hills historian quotes an old cowhand: "I once saw 'Calamity Jane' give the finest demonstration in the use of firearms I have ever witnessed." A venerable Deadwood, So. Dak., muleskinner is quoted: "I saw Jane win $50 by hitting, with a pistol, a spot in the top of a hat hanging on the far rear-end of a saloon." A researcher writes: "She could out shoot the average 10 men of her era." Perhaps. . . .

Historians agree "Calamity," disguised as a man, actually joined General George Crook's 1875 Rose Bud campaign against the Sioux, as a meat-hunter and guard. The General fired her when he "discovered" her swimming nude in a river. An old photo shows her with an old Springfield single shot, while others show her with a 73 Winchester, and Frontier Colt and Webley revolvers.

In the frontier 70's, Calamity was "the one woman who could consistently live off the country with a gun by killing enough game to keep alive," according to one report.. However, other reports say she lived off frontier males rather than wild game.

In America, women shooters can be traced back only a relatively few years, but in Europe, women have been very much interested in the shooting sport, since its very beginning . . . some of them in an entirely different way than currently.

During the 16th century, at the dawn of the age of firearms, great shooting festivals were held in middle Germany. From hundreds of miles around shooters came to compete in the matches on ranges up to 600 yards. Prizes were high: honors and purses of gold valuable enough to buy an apprentice's freedom or set a young man up as a merchant. And then there was sometimes a special first prize . . . invariably a beautiful virgin who was usually the favorite daughter of the leading burgher of the town. She was given in marriage to the winner of the match—an honorable wedding with dancing and feasting which lasted long into the night when the shooting was over.

Some might think this was a high price to pay for attracting a convention to the town, but actually it was as moral as any "arranged" marriage. At least the girl knew that her future husband would be among the best shooters, with a sure path to distinction and wealth . . . an ideal husband, in fact. Yes, women have had an active interest in the shooting game from the very beginning. ◉

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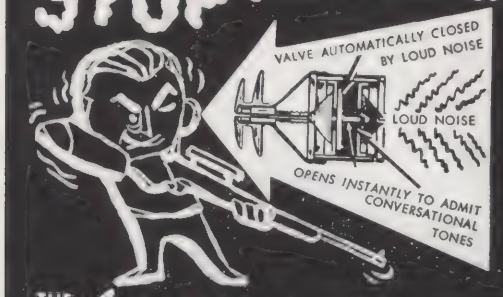

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CITY OF GUNMAKERS

(Continued from page 42)

reduced after the defeat of Bonaparte. The Ferlach industrial capacity was over-expanded, and because of reduced prices for their guns, the town of Ferlach went into a decline. The seeming death blow came when the Imperial Austrian Arsenal was opened in Vienna in 1842. By 1860, Army orders ceased. The Imperial Navy placed a few small orders, but not enough to keep the community active.

Established when bows and lances were replaced by firearms as war weapons, the Ferlach industry seemed doomed to extinction as hand-made weapons were in turn supplanted by machine-made factory guns. Three hundred years after Emperor Ferdinand I had settled the low-land gunsmiths in Carinthia, their community was dying.

The modern group of 23 Meisterbuchsenmachers of Ferlach are a diminutive remnant of the more than 300 gunmakers who once flourished there. After the Army began buying from the Vienna Arsenal, an attempt was made to reorganize the Ferlachers on a mass-production basis. A colonel was sent out from Vienna to set up a factory, but the traditional feeling of the Ferlachers for hand-made quality, not quantity, was stronger. The colonel's factory failed after two years. The old masters, struggling for survival, formed a new Genossenshaft in 1873 with 70 members. The duty of the Genossenshaft was to sell guns and obtain orders for them, but it, too, failed in 1875.

Arms imported from the more progressive German factories offered strong internal competition. Hungarian tariffs increased and Turkey, once a principal customer for Ferlach guns, prohibited arms imports entirely.

By 1875, only 12 masters remained in Ferlach. The rest had obtained good jobs as foremen and supervisors in the great arms factories of Vienna, Prague, Liege, Budapest, and the shops in their rival province, German Suhl.

Probably the only time in history that a bank considered the gun business a "banking risk" was when the banks and the government of the Duchy of Carinthia in 1887 reorganized the Genossenshaft on a new basis. It is under this last establishment that today's cooperative is working.

The Genossenshaft of 1887 made some changes in Ferlach tradition. To work as a gunmaker in Austria, the master had to be licensed by the government—a *privilegierten.* Even before being allowed to apply for a license, the gunmaker had to have a record of accomplishment behind him. Three years as an apprentice and five years at least as a journeyman were necessary just to get permission to take the master's examination. By that time he was widely travelled, as most of this work had been done in foreign countries under different masters, or at least in other provinces in the Empire. As token of his qualifications, he had to present to the Genossenshaft a "masterpiece," a rifle or shotgun made entirely by him, from raw wood and metal.

As a master, the gunmaker usually chose a specialized field. Some were barrel smiths, skilled at the delicate brazing, straightening, and regulating the double and triple-barrel guns. Others were stockers or action makers. The cooperative was an essential to Ferlach living, unifying the work of these many masters into one finished gun. All work was done at home, in rooms sometimes doing double duty as bedrooms, or parlors, in addition to serving as the Meister's workshop. Metalwork was by file and hand drill, and all finished work was channeled through the Genossenshaft to the customer.

In 1887, some changes were made in the system. Working independently of the cooperative, a few licensed Buchsenmacher received gun parts either in the rough state from the Genossenshaft warehouse or from other makers who specialized. These parts were struck up and finished by the independent makers, and delivered on their own accounts to customers. Today an independent maker can offer a complete gun, even of the same types which the Genossenshaft sells as a cooperative product.

The cooperative does have a production edge over the individuals. Many of the standard parts, such as bored and rough-turned barrels, trigger guards, butt plates, and certain lock parts, are roughed out on

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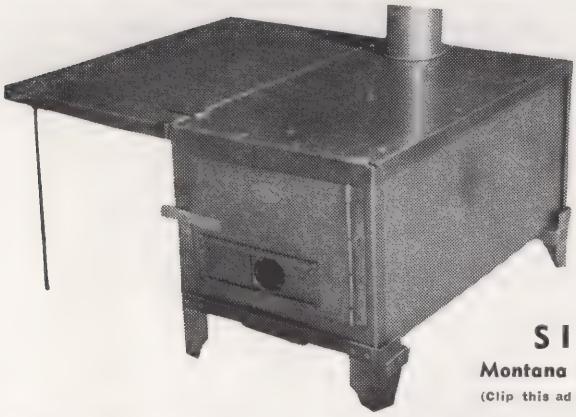

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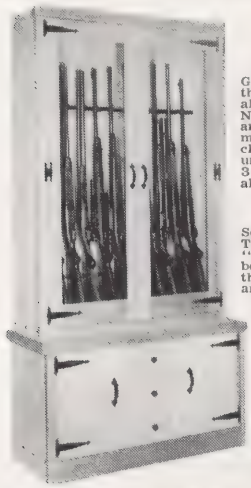

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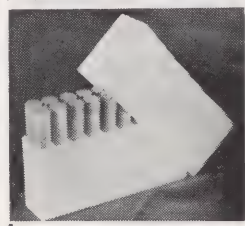

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machinery ready for individual hand finishing. Although machines are gradually being used to do the heavy work, they are actually freeing the workmen from menial tasks and giving them more scope for creative, artistic, quality work. The school aids in teaching the young.

Ferlach's gunsmith school, founded in 1878, combines old world tradition with a progressive training program. The students, under the instruction of school director Viktor Landerl, learn gunmaking from the "water table" up. This term applies to the joining of the barrel bottoms with the top of the solid breech. It derives from the architectural expression which refers to the joining of the top of the foundation to the bottom of the brickwork, or wall superstructure. An apt simile for the water table is the foundation surface of the gun.

The school, a large stone building with room for 60 or 70 students, begins the four-year course of the young apprentice with studies of mathematics and ballistics. It is pretty heavy stuff for thirteen-year-olds, but they get started young and really like it. About one in five students makes the grade. The school standards are high.

Engraving on Ferlach guns is a joy to behold. Young specializing engravers receive critical instruction. Bad work is thrown out. While there are always a number of young gunsmiths, including about 10 per cent each year who are girls, that want to do engraving, not many become masters. Physical strength is not the drawback: sharp graving tools can push through soft annealed steel without too much force needed. But the exacting skill of the engraver, which demands that the right cut be made, and the right one only, requires a high degree of nervous control and concentration.

Most Americans who want fine engraving are turning to European workmen to have their fine guns decorated. Hence the popularity of Ferlach guns, where the tradition of quality is combined with relatively low price. A .30-06 double represents about 130 hours of engraving work. The breech action may be completely covered with fine engraving. On the bottom of a typical gun is a stag's head, while the lockplates sport a boar family on one side and a moose family on the other. I took a borrowed Ferlach gun to the range the other day. Made by Josef Winkler, the double O/U .30/06 was light and handy. Mounted with a Vienna Kahles 4X scope, the gun seemed snub-nosed, with its sleekly tapered 23 11/16" barrels. Overall, with rubber buttpad, the gun measured 50" and tipped the scales at 8¾ pounds, including the one-pound scope.

Both barrels were apparently rifled the same, 4 grooves left and a twist of one turn in 10 inches. Unlike the side-by-side double, there is no need to rifle the barrels differently to counter act recoil. They do have to be aligned in manufacture, "ranged," so that they will carry to the same point of aim at a given distance. Fixing these barrels together is a difficult task, and one of the most time-consuming of all operations in making a double rifle. The barrels first have to be fitted to the breech, yet be loose at the muzzle. A spacer, eventually silver soldered in place, is fitted by filing to put

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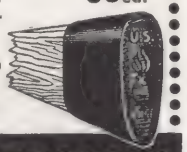

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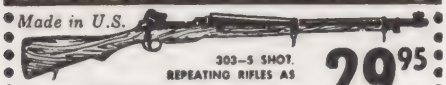

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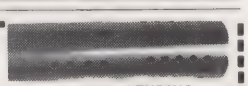

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just the right amount of pressure on the muzzles, something like the muzzle pressure from the stock of a full-stocked match military rifle. After they are fitted, they are brazed, polished and blued, and ready to go.

The actions are also chopped out mostly by hand. Supposedly, ERP machinery installed in Franz Sodia's works and in the shops of the Genossenshaft would make greater production of basic components possible. To an extent machines have replaced hand work—yet I saw a gunmaker reaming the hole for the barrel hinge or pivot. He fixed a twist drill in the headstock of an engine lathe, and then brought the rough action and barrel up to the reamer, *holding it in his hands* and *pushing* it onto the reamer as it cut!

This particular gunmaker, whose hands were so steady that he did not need tools to hold the work, was making a double "blitz action" like the one I had to shoot.

My "blitz" top lever double, with the two Kersten locking bolts securing the barrel extensions solidly to the breech, should have been a close shooting gun. The bottom bolts which slide across big lugs on the barrel assembly, together with the Kersten bolts, make barrel and breech virtually one solid block. But on the range, it wasn't up to match accuracy.

At 100 yards, from a rest and sighting with the scope, the bottom set trigger barrel shot approximately 4" to the right with 150 grain Ball M2 ammo. I tested the bottom barrel particularly, because it is ordinarily fired first, and has the easy trigger: then the top barrel fires. The top barrel grouped pretty regularly about 1" to the left and 6 to 7 inches high, both myself and a friend doing the shooting. On the diagonal this would give a minimum spread of about 8" which is a pretty big 100-yard group in any country, scope or not.

The scope was the source of some trouble. I got cut by it until I realized that it was set back much farther than I ordinarily would have a scope placed on a big rifle. The other shooter, a tall, lanky fellow with a long neck and the stock crawling habit, also tried it offhand. After he shot, he turned to me and with a trickle of blood down the side of his nose remarked: "I don't know as I like them telescopic sights."

This is all wrong, I thought; here I've got a thousand dollar piece of machinery and I can't hit the broadside of a barn. Why?

Next I tried three shots from each barrel, quickly. Using the set trigger and simulating "hunting" shooting from the rest, I got a 1½" group with the bottom barrel. The top barrel, fired by an ordinary trigger, grouped a little wider, but under 3". Partly this was my fault: the pull was long and rather heavy, and I had a tendency to flinch something horrible. But it could shoot satisfactorily, and still it was a lemon? And then it dawned on me . . .

In Ferlach they hand-make guns . . . made to order in every sense. A Ferlach gun should be specially built and take advantage of all the tailoring to the individual which the Ferlach masters can do. There was nothing wrong with the gun I tried: when I tested it on both barrels, each barrel would make good groups for a hunting gun. But to take a Ferlach gun from the rack or

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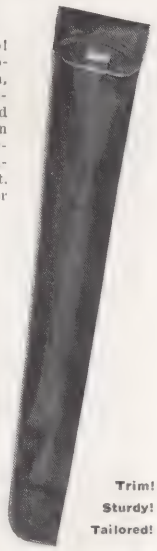

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to settle for one second hand, is like buying somebody else's suit of clothes . . . and the gun I borrowed just didn't fit me. So now I have a plan.

I'm going to get me a set of Ferlach guns made to order . . . all on one stock and action. First, the blitz action, every part hand finished and perfect. It will have a fair drop to the stock. I'll get measured in a local gunshop to see just what dimensions I need and then I'll send my order in. I want three sets of barrels. First will be a set of .375 Magnum barrels, for real brush cutting and slugging it out with a Kodiak. And if I have to, I'll shoot some Wisconsin deer with it. I'll have a scope mounted on those barrels, probably a 2½ X with dural tube, for lightness.

No double rifle will shoot equally well with all kinds of ammunition. When I order, I'll decide on the standard load of bullet and powder that I want the barrels regulated for, and if I have to, I'll get the importer to ship over enough of that ammunition for the barrel man to use for testing. Then there will be a second set of barrels. With a stock which comes up naturally and fast for me, I might as well use it on a shotgun as on a rifle. With a pair of over/under twelves fitted to that breech, and a hand-filling beavertail fore end instead of the slim hunting one, I'd have a real field gun.

And last but not least, a third barrel—just one—that I could really shoot. It should be in a caliber to fill the bill between varminter and deer rifle—maybe a 250/3000 or one of the "improved" 7mm calibers.

Flaig's, of Millvale, Pa., imports these things from the Genossenshaft. Right now he has an over under rifle, ejectors, with a 4x Hensoldt scope. With this gun is an extra set of 16 gauge barrels. He's got a tag of $1100 on it—about half what a comparable English gun would cost. Add to that about another 20 per cent for a single barrel in another caliber, and a scope—price still runs less than many fine shotguns, alone. Actually, the price of the whole outfit, made in Ferlach and paying the freight, importer's profit, and Uncle Sam's import duties would be about the value of the engraving alone if done in this country.

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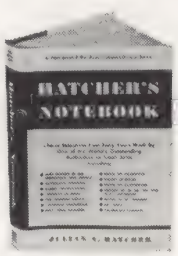

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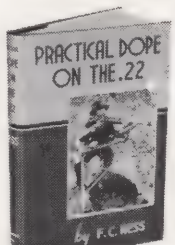

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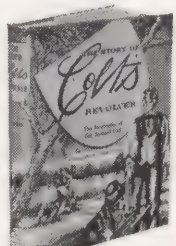

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But a thousand dollars is pushing the top limit for the finest of Ferlach guns. The prices in Austria are low—and they are still comparably low when delivered here. The over/under rifle and shotgun combination, with top barrel in .22 Hornet, through .222, .257, 7mm, .270 to .30-06, with 20, 16, and 12 gauge shot barrels, fully engraved with deluxe checkering, lists at $330. Mausers, which with their machine-made receivers take much less hand work, sell for about $200 up. Ferlach guns can be bought "ready made" to standard dimensions, but there's no saving in price. With a 400-year heritage of hand-made, special craftsmanship, it's missing a bet to get anything other than the right gun, built for you.

Well, it's a nice idea. Maybe soon I'll get them to make up such an outfit. It would approach the ideal as an all-around outfit, something only the "shotgun" actions of European rifles would permit, with interchangeable barrels. It would be made to order, but I've seen these Austrian gunmakers at work, and I know of the quality they can turn out, patiently, if they have time to work at their own speed.

And as for money? I don't have to have them engraved like a carved silver goblet . . . maybe simple line engraving or one or two animals would be enough . . . depends on what I want to spend. But if I want to shoot the works, and get an outfit which would be the envy of every gunner who saw it, because it would be built sensibly and to American tastes, I'll put in the order.

Meanwhile, I'll remember a trip on the Orient Express through the high valleys of Austria, where the Austrian GI's on holiday stand in the vestibule with their red hounds and Ferlach "bergstutzen" mountain rifles slung across their shoulders and detrain at some little way-station. High above, stretching to the cotton clouds, are the sheer peaks of granite, the ragged escarpment which is the foot of the Austrian Alps. Beyond the peaks to the south, is a peaceful village of Ferlach where for three hundred years men were gun makers for the Austrian empire, and now are gunmakers for the world . . . the Buchsenmachermeisters of Ferlach. ◉

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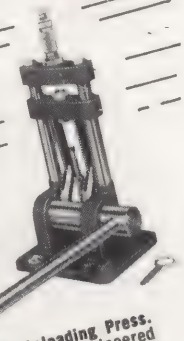

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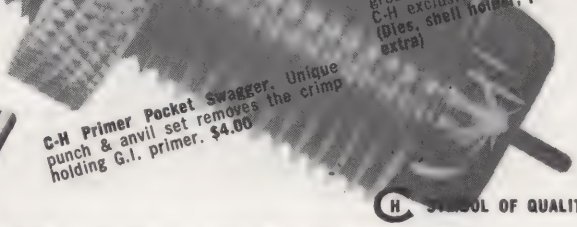

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SHOOTING IRONS OF SHOOTING ELLIOTTS

(Continued from page 29)

would throw composition balls into the air and I would shoot them down while pedalling."

"Where was your father standing?" I asked him, thinking he was on the grandstand stage also.

"Oh, no, Dad was down on the racetrack in his Locomobile steamer. He would drive past the grandstand while tossing the black composition balls high into the air for me to shoot at."

Captain Elliott learned about shooting at first as a sideline. He was a watchmaker by trade, but while in Lockport in the 1880's, he met Seth Millard, one of the gunsmiths of the days of famed gunmakers Billinghurst and Brockway. Millard took a liking to the young watchmaker, and taught him much about gunsmithing which Elliott then pursued as a hobby.

Millard made a .35 caliber breech loading rifle for Captain Elliott and Doc has this fine rifle today, as well as a heavier bench-rest slug gun of .48 caliber built for Dr. Orson Reasoner of Lockport and now owned by Doc Elliott. He pulled the .48 Millard from the rack and handed it to me.

"That Millard-made gun is a .48," Doc said reverently. Millard built guns from .38 to .50 caliber, but most of them were .40 to .45 caliber." He took the heavy octagon-barreled rifle from my hands, and pointed to the muzzle face which had four small holes drilled in it alongside of the bore.

'In making false muzzles to these guns," began Doc, "about two inches of the rifled barrel was cut off. Holes had already been drilled to fit the pegs into, and the cut was made clean across their four holes so the pieces would line up later. The cut surfaces were polished and pins fitted to the cut-off part. The lands and grooves in both muzzle and barrel of course lined up, and loading the bullet first through the false muzzle protected the edges of the barrel rifling from damage by the ramrod. This kept them accurate."

He held the rifle so I could look through the rear sight. A small peg stuck up from the false muzzle and closed the view through the front sight. "The peg was to keep you from firing the gun with the muzzle attached, for of course that would blow the muzzle piece off and lose it or damage the barrel."

I watched as Doc slipped the bullet starter over the false muzzle. The plunger, struck smartly with the heel of the hand, would push the bullet several inches into the barrel making it an easy job for the loading rod to shove it all the way down to the powder charge. The bullet fired was a long "slug" made from lead of two different hardnesses, swedged together in a special die.

The original owner, Dr. Reasoner, so Captain Elliott once wrote, "was *never beaten* in the many matches he attended during these years. He won 27 turkeys in one match —distance 80 rods and a four inch target. He shot the heads off of six turkeys in succession at 40 rods (220 yards) in another match. Also he killed four turkeys out of eight shots at one-half mile, shooting at the turkeys on a snowbank."

Skeptical of these figures as Doc reeled them off, I came to understand that these were not simply the memories of advancing years, but information from his many carefully-maintained notebooks. "Seventy five grains of FG powder was the proper load," Doc stated, "and this muzzle loader could keep five shots in 1½ inches at 40 rods."

Doc's other prized Millard rifle is one which belonged to his father. An unusual hinged frame which tips at the breech for loading, it resembles a conventional percussion lock rifle on first inspection. Actually the front of three triggers opens the breech, while the rear two are ordinary double set triggers fitted by Captain Elliott himself.

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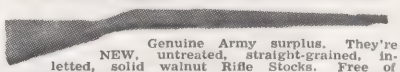

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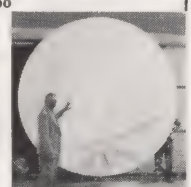

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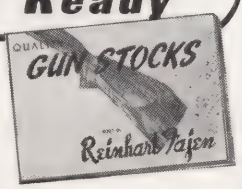

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The gun is a cartridge firearm of the "Pope" type. The bullet was first seated a constant distance from the breech in the rifling by a loading plunger. Then the cartridge case, primed and loaded, with a cardboard or grease wad holding the powder in, was placed into the rifle chamber for firing.

This allowed the super-accurate target shooter of olden days to use one individual "Everlasting" brass shell, and load it each time for constant chamber volume. This particular rifle, light enough to be an off-hand gun, also had a muzzle rest of cast iron which could be slipped over the end of the barrel and fastened by a set screw. In 1884 Captain Elliott won 10 turkeys out of 19 shots offhand at 20 rods. The target was a glass ball 2½ inches in diameter—"break the ball and win a turkey."

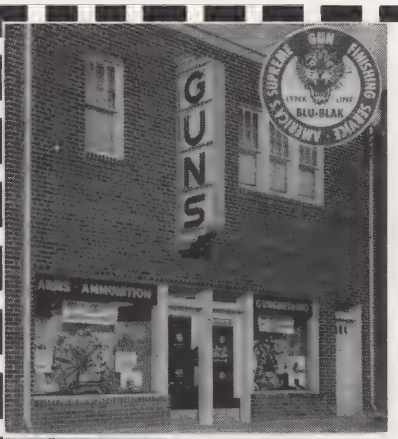
Doc reminisced further over his shooting skills of past days. "With this Savage 250-3000 Model 40 super sporter and a Savage 25-20, I exterminated over 1200 woodchucks in the ten years between 1930 and 1940. I used a Malcolm scope with both 4X and 6X objective glass available on both rifles. Also used eighteen kinds of bullets and five kinds of powder."

The 250-3000 Savage is a hunting gun, rather than a target rifle, but Doc claimed: "I have made numerous five-shot groups of about 1½ inches in diameter from rest at 90 to 100 yard ranges, and in 1934, using a mixture of light loads, I fired 25 shots in succession that made a composite group of two inches."

Turning to another rifle, Doc brought it from the rack with an air of great pride. At first glance it was "just another Stevens single shot," but I looked more closely. Doc explained that the scope tube which ran the entire length of the barrel was really a tube sight: "Does look like a miniature Malcolm, at that, but it's my own invention and took me more than a year to perfect it when I was about 16. It gives accuracy next to a scope . . . made it from a tubular rib of an umbrella and browned it with a combination of acids. That piece at one end is cut from a pistol barrel and the brass end which carries the cross wires was made from a cartridge case. The screws and most of the parts I turned on father's lathe. Others I filed, blued and finished by hand."

Small wonder that rifle was Doc's favorite. He had borrowed it to shoot in a match which if he won would gain him the very rifle as a prize. "I had to make 47 x 50 on this standard target at 75 feet with open sights to do it. It's a good woodchuck gun—the 25-20 is more effective than the regular .22 Long Rifle. I used to pot the chucks through the head as they would pop up for a looksee. Once I can recall getting 11 chucks through the head out of 13 shots, offhand of course, and I'd usually be about ten or so rods away."

Doc had asked me to go chuck hunting the following Monday, at his cabin on the lake. Mrs. Elliott told me that he had already started out hunting, so I followed his trail through woods to farming land. It was a sunny day: the hay had been cut and any chucks out of their holes should be easy to see. Then in a meadow I found one neatly



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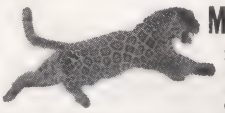

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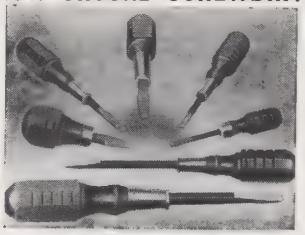

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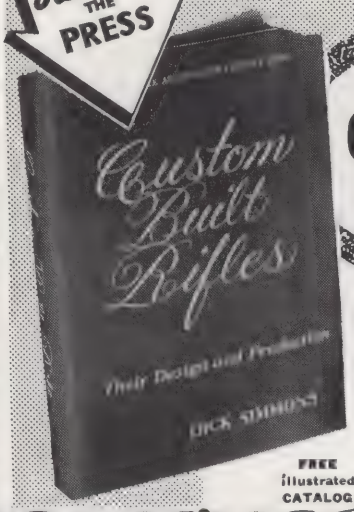

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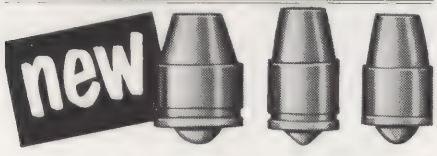

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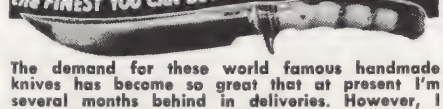

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drilled in the chest, and knew that Doc was not far away.

That afternoon he killed eight woodchucks in ten shots. One of the missing shots was taken at a small rock which seemed to be a chuck's head. The rock was hit. The other shot dug up the dirt where a trick of light and shade gave the appearance of a chuck's head, too. "Doc, you still have your shooting eye and steady hand," I told him admiringly. "You are remarkable."

Modestly Doc gave the credit to his Savage 219 Hornet Single Shot . . . "and of course the four power Weaver scope helps. Also I experimented until I found my most accurate load for this gun—10 to 10½ grains of #2400 powder in back of a 45 grain bullet."

Relaxed, Doc and I talked together as we strolled across the cut fields to his lakeside cottage. He spoke of Captain Elliott.

"One of Father's most difficult aerial feats," Doc remarked, "was hitting balls 2½ inches in diameter thrown into the air by me or Cad Lefever, one of his assistants. He would hit these balls with lead bullets while holding the Colt .22 rifle *upside down*, the top of the stock resting on top of his shoulder, the sights underneath where they couldn't be seen.

"Another stunt I remember from when I was quite young. Father would have me throw candy balls about an inch diameter into the air. Using the .22 with lead bullets, he once broke 24 of these candy balls in succession. Another time, I would hold a bottle in my hands with the cork reversed and set loosely on top of the neck, with a buckshot on top of that. In front of the crowd, Father would shoot the cork out from under the buckshot, and the shot would drop into the bottle . . . he never hit the bottle!

"That is literally true, too—Father never used alcoholic beverages nor tobacco nor have I even to this day."

"Fred," the captain used to say to his son, "to be top notch shots you and I must depend on our superb eyesight which the Lord gave us, on our fine, dependable arms and ammunition and on our coordination. To have this last we've got to leave tobacco and alcohol alone."

The Captain and Fred travelled from their home at Chenango Forks, north of Binghamton, N. Y., throughout New York state, to New York City, Boston, and Philadelphia. They were star featured attractions at theatres, museums and variety houses in dozens of cities.

"But Dad was a family man," Doc said. "He loved his home. His jewelry business was growing and more and more people were buying hand-loaded ammunition from him because he was the best shot they knew and his ammunition was loaded accurately. Life with a travelling show didn't appeal to him as the right environment for a family man and his wife, nor the place to raise children."

Maybe show business wasn't the proper place to raise children, but on stage and off Captain Elliott and his son, Fred, made a father-son team to be remembered. Though their names haven't come down to us today as popular heroes, they have a recognition which is very important. They were but two of the thousands of people who more and more are turning to the use of guns as a peaceful sport and an interesting hobby. ◉

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HUNTING ROYAL GAME

(Continued from page 21)

Plott hounds, although a distinctively American dog, are not a breed recognized by the American Kennel Club. The Plott family, old time settlers in the North Carolina part of the Smokies, have been breeding these medium-weight hunting dogs since before 1800. Short haired, weighing about 65 pounds, and standing about 23" high, the Plott hound is all fight and muscle. The Plott family claims to have rid the Smokies of panthers, by hunting them with these hounds, and frequently they are used after bears today. A hill-man with his 20 gauge pun'kin roller and his Plott hound is all set for bear . . . or boar.

The hounds are taken into the hills, where the "Roosians," as they are called by mountaineers, have been sleeping all night. Their furious yelling as they scent the pigs starts the boars downhill. The hunters, carefully placed in separate hollows to avoid shooting one another, wait along trails or at the bottom of the ravine, for the pigs to rush past.

When a porker hoves into sight, he usually has three or four hounds at his heels, or hanging from his cheeks. A 400 or 500 pound boar can travel pretty fast, even with a dog or two trying to pull him down. Tired at last, he stands at bay. His great head swings from side to side, covering his neck, as the dogs circle warily to close in.

Mr. Hunter has a choice of finishing off the boar. He can let the dogs do it—which ruins a lot of good dogs. Caught on the boar's lower tusks, a dog can be gutted like he had a zipper on his belly. But the hunter has an alternative—one demanding courage even though the outcome for the boar is a certainty. The pig will get killed, if necessary being shot by the dog handlers. But with the dogs called off and the boar breaking for the brush, the hunter has to be a good shot and fast to nail him. A shoulder shot is good, but if you miss, or only wound him, beware. The boar will swap ends and head for you with all the affection of a driverless truck.

If you lose your balance, slip and fall, you are a goner. Boars are known to have killed unlucky hunters. The only thing to do is hold your ground and down him with the next shot. Buck fever, pumping five shells through a lever gun without squeezing the trigger, won't kill any boar. Most hunters don't expect to be charged by the animal they hunt, or get into an encounter with a beast who has taken a personal dislike to you. If that sort of hunting is too much for you, better practice tree climbing, fast!

Pig meat is edible, but not as flavorful as domesticated pork, and a lot tougher. Principally, the Tennessee Russian boar is hunted for his trophy head. In the old hunting lodges of Europe, where for centuries the wild boar has been among the highly prized game trophies, mounted heads glare fiercely from the walls. Now in America more hunters, searching for an animal not quite as sweet tempered as the deer, and possessing the fight of a mountain lion, turn to the Russian wild boars of Tennessee for sport. A centuries-old European game animal, combined with a century-old American breed of hunting dog, produces a hunt with unparalleled challenge, sport and adventure. ◉

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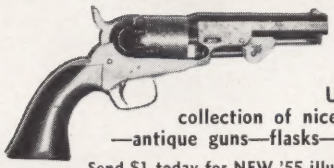

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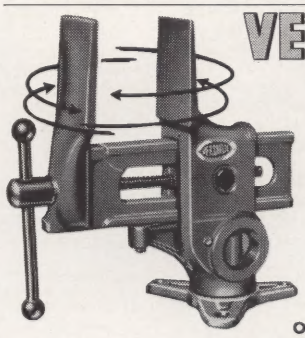

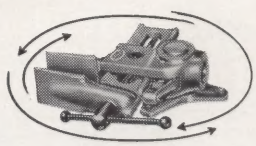

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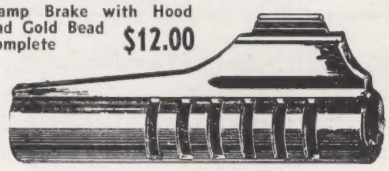

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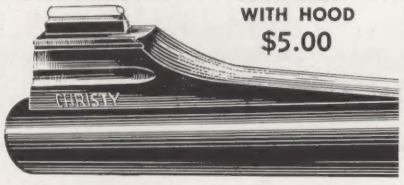

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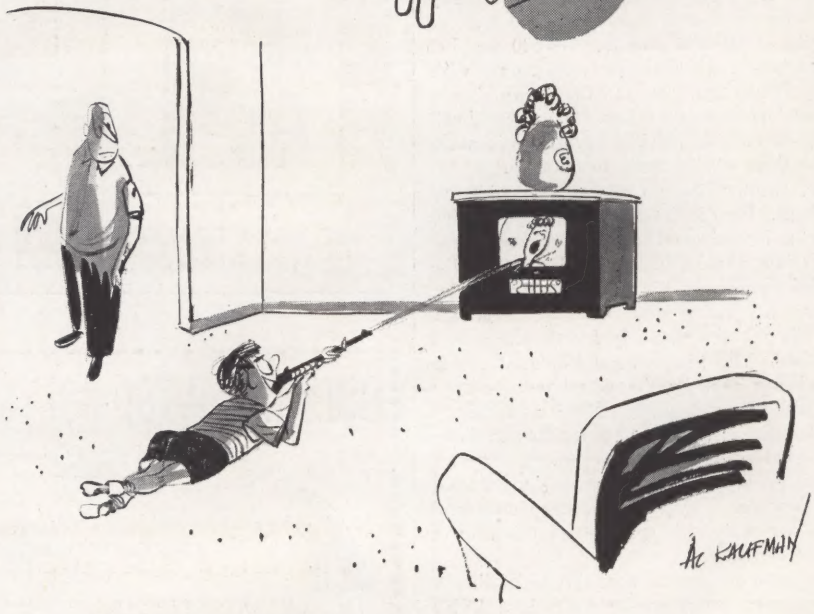

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Blanks Turned & Inletted: We turn and inlet your rifle blanks, $5.00 each; six or more, $4.00 each. One week service. Seconds minor defects, bird pecks, etc.—50% off.

LAMINATED STOCKS, any combination wood — vertical ½" pieces — turned and inletted, $12.00; fancy wood, $16.00. Horizontal—any combination wood, $20.00, fancy $25.00.

CURLY MAPLE Super fancy hard rock Maple blanks & stocks—$35.00; Shotgun blanks $15.00-$20.00. Fancy blanks, $12.00 to $20.00. Blanks turned inletted $15.00 to $25.00. Other curly maple stocks, $7.00-$12.00.

COMMERCIAL Non-Corrosive AMMO SPECIALS

.45 Rem. Auto, 230-gr. M.C., boxes 50 ..... $6.50-100	.22 Win. H.P.—S.P., boxes 20 ..... $9.00-100
.22 Rem. Hornet, 45-gr. S.P., boxes 50 ..... 6.50-100	.219 Win. Zipper S.P. boxes 20 ..... 9.00-100
.38 Rem. Spl. 158-gr. S.J., boxes 50 ..... 6.00-100	.25-35 Win. S.P., boxes of 20 ..... 9.00-100
.38-55 or .303-Sav. 195-S.P., boxes 20 ..... 9.00-100	.25-20 Peters, S.P., boxes 50 ..... 6.00-100
.45 Colt Auto, late date, GOVT. S.P. 50 ..... 4.50-100	.32 W.S.L. (auto), S.P., boxes 50 ..... 8.00-100

.30-06 M.C. 160-gr. 42-43—Win. or Rem. S.P., boxes of 20, $6.00 per 100. Lots of 500 or more, 10% less. CASE LOTS SPECIAL: Case of 1,000 rounds, $50.00; Case of 1500 rounds, $72.00—f.o.b. Millvale.

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2 GR. SPRINGFIELD BARRELS, "ISSUE"—NEW 24", fully chambered & threaded	$ 8.00
2 GR. KRAG BARRELS, chambered & threaded	15.00
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FOR MAUSER OR KRAG ONLY.
NOTE: We will soon have Oct. Ribbed Barrels in .25, .30, 7mm (20" long for Mannlicher rifles); Caliber 257-R, 250-3000, 308-Win., 300-Sav. and 7mm. Price $45.00, same as on 24" barrels. Place order now.

IMPORTED HVA ACTIONS-BARRELS, blued with ramp. .308, .270, .30-06, $99.95.
HVA ACTIONS ON ACKLEY CHROME MOLY BARRELS, 24" sporter (or less), head spaced, test fired, white—in most calibers, $85.00.
IMPORTED F.N. BARRELLED-ACTIONS, .300 H&H and .375 H&H, blued, $89.95.
SAKO ACTION on 26" 4½# med. heavy ACKLEY chrome moly barrel, white, $84.00.
SAKO ACTION or imported medium heavy barrel, blued, no sights, Ready for stocking. .222 Rem. caliber $90.00.
BOEHLER BARRELS, proof steel, semi-octagon, ribbed, matted entire length. Made by FRANZ SODIA of Ferlach, Austria in .25, .270, 7mm, .30 and 8mm. Wt. 3 lbs. Highly accurate—in the white, $45.00.
F.N. ACTIONS, Boehler proof steel round barrels, gradual taper. Highly accurate, made by FRANZ SODIA. Caliber .270. White, $75.00.
F. N. ACTIONS IMPORTED—LITE WGT. vanadium steel barrels, blued with ramp (.220 Swift, .257-R, .250-3000, .270, 7 mm or .30-06), $74.00 PREPAID.
F. N. ACTIONS, Boehler 24" proof steel barrels, semi-octagon ribbed, matted. Sheared bead in ramp. Caliber .270, .308 Win. or 7 mm. 30.06, 22-250-220 Swift 26", $95.00.
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Turned shot gun blanks, with cheek piece, full P.G., large enough to make any type shot gun stock: 99 Savage, 71 Win, 760 Rem. etc. Standard with sun-burst P.G. cap—$2.00. XX Grade—$3.00.

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ENFIELD ACTION WITH 5-groove v.g. barrel, issue Win.-Rem. make	$34.00
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ENFIELD ACTION ONLY, issue	$25.00
DITTO—with ears milled, flushed tr. guard	$32.00
ENFIELD BARREL—4-5 groove, v.g.	$13.00

OTHER ENFIELD PARTS: Flushed trigger guard, blued with screw, $3.50. Bolts with extra collars, $1.50 ea., $15.00 per doz. Magazine boxes, followers or trigger guards stripped, each $1.00, $8.00 per doz. Firing pins, 55¢, $4 doz. Safes, .75, $6 doz. Safety block with screw, .50, $4 doz. Ejectors, .75, $7 doz. Mag springs or mainsprings, each .30, $2 doz. Ejector box screws, .25, $1.80 doz. Sear or Safety springs, .15, $1.00 doz.

SPRINGFIELD PARTS: Bolts, late style, stripped, new, $5.00; complete $10.00. Trigger guards, milled, stripped, NEW $3.00. Sniper bolts, (low scope), stripped, NEW $8.50.
KRAG PARTS: Bolts, stripped $7.00. Firing pins, NEW $1.50. Trigger guards $2.50. Follower springs $1.50.

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